WORKS IN PROGRESS

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Tacoma priest performs exorcism of nuke base

Feds indict author's favorite Tacoman

by Patty Imani

One year ago, on Nov. 2, the Disarm Now Plowshares action took place at Naval Base Bangor–Kitsap. All Souls Day was chosen for the Plowshares action, a day to remember those who have died. The nuclear base north of Olympia holds eight Trident Nuclear Subs; each sub can carry 24 D-5 nuclear missiles, and each D-5 can carry 4-6 nuclear warheads. That's a lot of nukes stockpiled and ready to use. It's the largest arsenal of nuclear weapons in the U.S.

The inspiration for Plowshares actions is taken from Isaiah 2:4 "...they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. And nations will not take up swords against nations, nor will they train for war anymore." Based in the practices of nonviolent civil resistance, there have been over 100 Plowshares Nuclear Resistance actions worldwide since 1980.

My sense of religion comes with about as much structure as you might imagine of someone raised by good agnostics, with a few backyard crows, and the big view of the mountain that Tacoma offers. Given that, Catholics who walk onto a nuclear base with hammers and bolt cutters do manage to impress me.

I was fascinated by Father Bix, who stayed in Tacoma and took on the hard work of challenging the oppressive conditions that thrived in Tacoma, while at the same time working to build a community that truly sustains life.

One of the Plowshares activists is Fr. Bill "Bix" Bichsel, a radical Jesuit who grew up in Tacoma and lives there today within the Catholic Workers community he helped to build. Two years ago a close friend of Bix's, here in Olympia for his son's Port Militarization Resistance-related trial, pulled me aside and told me that Bix, who had heart disease for some time, had been told by his heart doctor there was nothing more they could do for him. Bix, I was told, had six months to live, *maybe* a little more. Fast forward a year later and I'm reading an e-mail saying that Bix had just been arrested with others after climbing over and crawling through barbed wire fencing at Bangor, set to begin the dismantlement process of a nuclear bomb. Ten months later, in September, I learned the feds decided to turn a grand jury indictment and press felony charges against Bix and his co-defendants; they're now facing many years in prison for this courageous act.

Aside from Bix, the Disarm Now Plowshares activists are Sister Anne Montgomery, Lynne Greenwald, Susan Crane, and Fr. Steve Kelly. They are each facing four felony charges following the federal grand jury indictment. Their trial is scheduled for Dec. 7 at the Federal Courthouse in Tacoma.

Over 30 years ago, Sister Anne Montgomery participated in the very first Plowshares disarmament action, hammering into components of a Mark 12A nuclear missile at a GE weapons plant in Pennsylvania. Lynne Greenwald has been working with the nuclear disarmament movement since the mid 70's, moving to Washington to resist the buildup of Bangor; she is both mother and grandmother, founder of the Irma Gary House, a home for women recently released from Purdy, the women's prison across the Narrows. Defendant Susan

▸ **PLOWSHARES,** continued on page 16

Call for forum on legality of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

from WIP News Service

The Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP) sponsored the Community Forum on the Military Use of the Port of Olympia on October 21. The panel members for the evening were Port Commissioner Jeff Davis, Port Militarization Resistance (PMR) participant Patty Imani, City Councilmember Rhenda Strub and Evergreen Professor Larry Mosqueda of OMJP. The event gave each speaker up to 15 minutes to make a presentation to the crowd about the Port of Olympia from their own particular perspective. After each panelist had spoken, the crowd on hand had 45 minutes for questions to the panel.

Port Commissioner Jeff Davis

Commissioner Davis led off the event with a short history lesson regarding public ports. Davis' comments included the following:

"The ports, by design, were created to move cargo under the guise of economic development. The Port of Olympia started in 1922. They needed to secure public ports so that the private investors wouldn't be controlling the shipping lanes, which they did especially in Seattle and Tacoma. It was actually a kind of a revolutionary idea at the time that the Port would be owned by the citizenry. By design [the public ports] are not created to be a profit maker, per se. They are designed to bring in economic development to the area. They are taxpayer driven, subsidized by your taxes.

"As it stands there have been twelve ships which have come to Olympia since 2002, and each one of those has been to serve what is now called Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

"We don't foresee any [military shipments] coming through this year, and we don't foresee any coming through next year." - Port Commissioner Davis

"I am, and the other two [Port] Commissioners are, supportive of military cargo – not so much for the profit that it's generating, but more to support the community itself and the surrounding members that it serves.

"We do not have any ships, specifically any military ships, on order to come through the Port of Olympia. We don't foresee any coming through this year, and we don't foresee any coming through next year.

"I would point you to a recent article that came out in the Tacoma *News Tribune*, I believe two weeks ago, that said that most of the military cargo that's coming back to the United States from Afghanistan and Iraq is going to be handled through the Gulf area, whether it be Alabama, Mississippi, and then railroaded back..."

Patty Imani, of PMR

Patty Imani followed Davis with a critique of the military use of the port and explanation of the duty of citizens to resist illegal wars. Patty's comments included the following:

"I am happy to hear that Davis states that there are no plans for a military shipment [through the Port of Olympia]. However this is contrary to what Commissioner Barner had stated to the *Olympian* in August. It's also contrary to some of the planning happening: There is an agenda item, which has been set with the City of Olympia for December in the General Government Committee, to talk about who will pay for the policing of protests of future shipments. I hope it does remain that there are no shipments, because those shipments would be illegal. Support of an aggressive, illegal war is a violation of international law. Specifically by contracting to ship combat equipment used to accomplish an aggressive, illegal war, our public ports are committing crimes against peace. (Principle Six of the Nuremberg Tribunal)

"Because it is a public port, this is why we resist [transport of war materials for an illegal war]. We refuse to turn our heads because we are following a greater law, including the Principles of Nuremberg as well as US Code. We are attempting to uphold law, not break law.

"There is some sentiment expressed that perhaps it is okay to support the Department of Defense now, because there is a myth that the war is over in Iraq. Combat troops remain in Iraq. Just on Oct. 10, the *News Tribune* reported [...] that the 3/2 SBCT based here at Fort Lewis handed its Strykers over to the Hawaii based combat soldiers, who are now in Iraq. In August of this year, at the same time President Obama declared all combat operations in Iraq had ceased, over five thousand soldiers out of Fort Hood with the Third Armored Cavalry Regiment – a combat unit - were being deployed to Iraq.

"War crimes continue to take place that are horrific. And equipment that is associated with the combat brigades has passed through our public ports, here in Olympia and also in Tacoma.

"The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are both illegal, aggressive wars under International Law. There are certain conditions [where a war can be legal]. First, a country has to have been invaded by another nation, and second, the war has to be sanctioned by the United Nations. Each and every individual citizen is ac-

▸ **PORT,** continued on page 14

Dear friends

Help us produce the film *Love Through Generations*! We here at Love and Communities have an urgent pledge drive!

We are happy to say that over the last 4 months we have completed our historic film, *Love Through Generations*. It is an important film that will leave a lasting impression on you. Viewers and participants alike are moved, empowered, and stunned at the beautiful simplicity and profound implications of intergenerational dialogue. Meet the re-generation. The young people coming of age in a world when the stakes for self-actualization are the highest.

We have already agreed to have the world premiere of our film at the Third Annual International Love Unlimited Film Festival and Art Exhibition that starts on March 14, 2011. Our film has also been guaranteed a spot at the fifth annual international Social Uprising, Resistance and Grassroots Encouragement (SURGE) Film Festival. SURGE is an Internet Movie Database (IMDb)-qualifying film festival which means our film will have the honor of being featured on IMDb.

I am writing to you now in hopes that you will contribute to our pledge drive. Funds used for this pledge drive will go to our post-production expenses and a portion of all funds will also go towards delivery of free, organic food to financially disadvantaged families as we travel the country.

We have a fundraising thermometer on our website to show every step that we make towards reaching our pledge drive goals, and we have many levels of pledges including some that come with produce credits.

The post-production expenses include color correction, sound mixing, and outputting the film to High Definition for exhibition. In addition, a portion of all funds that Love and Communities raises from our pledge drives and services will go towards our food equality programs that deliver free-of-charge, organic food directly to the homes of people who are financially disadvantaged.

Love and Communities is a not-for-profit organization. Our focus is Love Inspired Community Organizing, Consulting and Emergency Rescue Services. The winter season is the hardest time of year for most people and the economy has been especially brutal to many families.

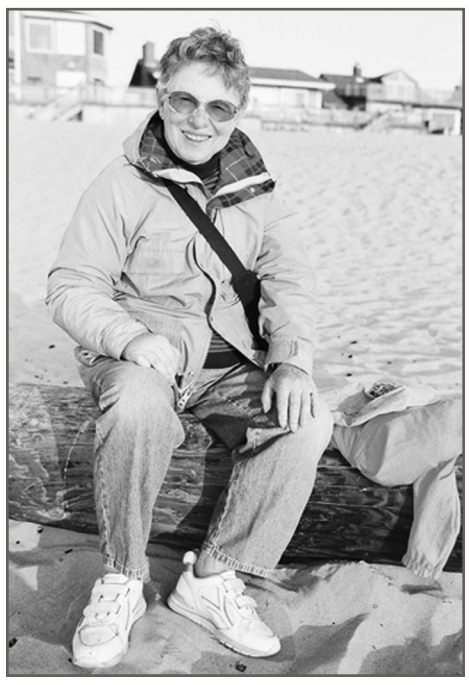
We accept pledges by secure online payment with Paypal and for checks and money orders we also have forms that you can print out at: www.LoveAndCommunities.org

Our pledge drive ends at the end of November, so we really hope you'll make a pledge right away and help make history with us! Every bit of help makes a difference.

The best is yet to come!

-Stephanie Snyder-Soulseed
Co-founder of Love and Communities
www.LoveAndCommunities.org
Member of the Peace Communities Progressive Coalition

In loving memory - Margery Sayre



Margery Sayre died peacefully in her home on Thursday, October 7, 2010. She was born in New York City on September 18, 1928 to Ralph and Silvia Sayre and was reared in Metuchen, New Jersey. She graduated high school from Westown Friends School in Pennsylvania, graduated from Wellesley College, and prepared for teaching at Hunter College. She moved to Olympia in 1956, answering a magazine ad from the Washington Association of County Commissioners. Margery went on to work for the Timberland Library system, Social and Health Services, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and taught at North Thurston High School.

She met her lifelong partner Jocelyn Dohm soon after moving to Washington at an American Association of University Women meeting. Tremendously active in the community during their 46 years together, Margery and Jocelyn worked on social justice, equality and human rights issues. They volunteered for Democratic candidates, and helped to found the Thurston County League of Women Voters. They frequently attended the Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon, and sang in the Masterworks Choral Ensemble. They traveled to many parts of the world on their own and through Friendship Force exchange tours. Margery and Jocelyn were also proud publishers of the progressive newspaper *The Link*. Jocelyn died in 2003.

In her later years, Margery served on numerous boards and was a vigorous participant in community discussions. She enjoyed lunches out, travel, picnics on her beach, watching tennis, participating in book clubs and attending music and theater events. She did lots of reading and was very happy to have friends stop by, sharing fond memories of her time with Jocelyn.

In 2008 Margery was awarded the Philanthropist of the Year Award by the South Sound Partners for Philanthropy due to her considerable generosity to institutions and organizations locally, including Group Health Cooperative, Senior Services for South Sound, Planned Parenthood, St. Peter Hospital, Timberland Library, Capital Land Trust, Nisqually Land Trust, South of the Sound Community Farm Land Trust, and more. Her ability to do this was unexpected in her life, and she recognized the big responsibility of financially supporting causes in which she believed and which had supported her.

Margery is survived by her only brother, David Sayre, 86 years old, of Bridgewater, NJ.

Thanks, Margery, for all you've been and all you've done!

This obituary was submitted by the executors of Sayre's will.

A memorial gathering for Margery Sayre will be held on Saturday November 20, 2010 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the old Salmon Club, now the Friends Monthly Meeting Hall, which is located on the corner of East Bay Drive and Flora Vista Rd NE, in Olympia.

The Olympia Free Herbal Clinic is open again!

The Clinic has a new office space in downtown Olympia.

Our open hours are:

Tuesdays	**3 to 7 pm**
Wednesdays	**5 to 7 pm**
Thursdays	**3 to 7 pm**

In the White Building on 4th Avenue (across from the Reef and above Last Word Books) in Room 212. The entrance is to the right of Last Word Books. Our office is up the stairs, down the hall, and to the right.

They are currently accepting applications for internships. Areas of focus include:

- Fundraising
- Donations and advertising
- Medicine
- Receptionist

Their wish list:

- Medicine-making supplies
- Clean, empty tincture bottles
- Organically cultivated or ethically wild-crafted herbs
- Books on herbal medicine, anatomy&physiology, herb/drug interactions, etc.

Radical cat in need of new home!

Margery's 6-year old cat is in need of a new home. "Quinn" is affectionate, smart, short gray haired, neutered, and is a great mouser! Call 360-866-4561 and leave message, including how late you receive calls.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Works In Progress is a free, volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of *Works In Progress* and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions

Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

Works In Progress is committed to stories misrepresented or ignored by the mainstream media. We value local, well-researched news stories, accounts of personal experience and reflections by local authors. Opinion pieces, also valued, are often best supported by facts, examples, and sources, and we encourage writers to include these elements to submissions. We're also looking for graphics, poetry, cartoons, and articles that push the boundaries of conventional journalism.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If your issue isn't being covered in Works In Progress*, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or haven't found someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to *olywip@gmail* or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool

The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP *will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by* WIP *to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but* WIP *reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Mission Statement

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. *Works In Progress* is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues

WIP is archived on microfilm by the University of Washington Library. Some issues are held in the Timberland Library system. The last five years are online at www.olywip.org

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Colby Batts	Joshua Neuhouser
Saved by the Berryhill	hali panneton
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Mike Coday	Sylvia Smith
C. J. Conner	Jeff Sowers
Renee Cruickshank	Pat Tassoni
Wally Cuddlyford	Ryan Tompkins
Christian DesMarets	Diana Valenzuela
Ben Gus	Berd Whitlock
Teresa Jennings	Scott Yoos
Margaret Love	
Joe Martineau	and room for more...

Cover photo by Leonard Eiger

Page 1 graphic by Al Zimmerman

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:
November 19
PO Box 295
Olympia WA 98507
olywip@gmail.com
Proofreading:
November 26
(Be there for the first read!)

ADVERTISING RATES

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7.25″ x 4.75″	. . . $125
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[4 months for the price of 3]

*** Special non-profit rates***

Bulldozer driver testimony underscores lack of transparency in Corrie trial

Voice behind screen says soldiers don't stop work

Rachel Corrie Foundation press release

Haifa, Israel - The bulldozer driver who struck and killed Rachel Corrie in March 2003, in Rafah, Gaza, testified for the first time Thursday, (October 21, 2010) in the civil lawsuit filed by the Corrie family against the state of Israel, but did so under extraordinary protective measures that continue to underscore the lack of transparency in the investigation as well as the trial process.

The driver, Y.P., whose name was not released, is a 38-year-old Russian immigrant who came to Israel in 1995. He was the sole witness for the day and gave his testimony over four hours behind a makeshift partition, a measure the state claimed was necessary to protect his security. Attorneys for the Corries requested that the family be allowed to see the driver even if the public could not, but their appeals were denied.

"We were disappointed not to see the whole human being," said Cindy Corrie, Rachel's mother. "It is a personal affront that the state's attorneys and Israeli government, on the basis of security, chose to keep our family from seeing the witness."

Scores of journalists, human rights observers and members of the public were shut out of the proceedings Thursday. The courtroom has only two long rows of seats, nearly half of which were held for the first time by observers apparently from the State Attorney's office and Ministry of Defense.

"It was very difficult not to hear or detect anything in this witness's words or voice that suggested remorse. Sadly, what I heard from the other side of the screen was indifference."

In over four hours of often confused testimony, Y.P. seemed to struggle to read and understand his own affidavit signed in April. He could not remember basic facts, such as the date of Rachel's killing or time of day it happened. He repeatedly contradicted his own statements on the stand and testimony given to military police investigators in 2003.

Highlights of testimony include the following:

• Y.P stated that after he drove over Rachel and backed up, she was located between his bulldozer and the mound of earth that he had pushed, corroborating photographic evidence and testimony from international eyewitnesses given to the court in March. His testimony calls into question that of the commander inside this same bulldozer, whose written affidavit states that Rachel's body was located in a different location, on the far side of the mound of earth created by the bulldozer. In court, Y.P. was asked if based on this contradiction he wanted to change his testimony. He firmly stated no.

• In testimony to military police investigators only three days after the incident, Y.P. said the blind spot in front of the bulldozer was 3 meters. In contradicting court testimony, he claimed the blind spot was 30 meters--ten times the distance first stated.

• Y.P. knew about regulations that the bulldozer was not to work within 10 meters of people. He was aware civilians were present, but said he was given orders to continue working. He said I'm just a soldier. It was not my decision.

• He claimed he did not see Rachel before the event. Nor did he recall seeing her specifically at all that day, despite the fact that she had protested the bulldozer's activity for several hours and was the only female activist wearing a bright orange fluorescent jacket.

Following the driver's testimony, Cindy Corrie stated, "It was very difficult not to hear or detect anything in this witness's words or voice that suggested remorse. Sadly, what I heard from the other side of the screen was indifference."

The proceedings on Thursday were attended by representatives of the US Embassy, Advocates sans Frontiers, the Center for Constitutional Rights, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), National Lawyers Guild, Adalah, and the Arab Association for Human Rights, many of whom have closely followed the hearings throughout the trial.

The next scheduled hearings are November 4 and 15. Please visit http://rachelcorriefoundation.org/trial for trial updates, changes to the court schedule and related information.

Not just Arizona

Anti-immigrant laws—and opposition to them—spread across the country

by Muffy Sunde

Arizona's legislative broadside against immigrants triggered a nationwide tsunami of similar proposals. A network of xenophobes churned out legislation and called for constitutional change — accompanied by racist stereotypes of Latino immigrants — aimed at marginalizing over 12 million working people. But, in defiance of racist apartheid, massive opposition from a broad range of organizations and individuals has erupted, and in some cases, stalled copycat legislation.

Arizona's SB 1070 requires immigrants to carry proof of legal status at all times and mandates police to stop and check the papers of anyone they "suspect" is in the country without documents. Anyone who fails this test is to be detained and handed over to immigration authorities. Further, the bill criminalizes anyone who assists the undocumented to get work, housing or transportation.

After international protest exploded, the Obama administration sued to block implementation because Arizona usurped federal authority. But the case didn't address racial and ethnic discrimination. A judge temporarily blocked the state from implementing three draconian parts of the law, but left most of it intact, including criminal charges for anyone who knowingly assists undocumented workers.

Similar bills are being discussed in 21 states and have been introduced in Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Minnesota, South Carolina and Mississippi.

A drive for new Jim Crow and Nazi laws

SB 1070 and its look-alikes are matched on the federal level by calls to repeal the Fourteenth Amendment. Glenn Beck and Co., and Senators Lindsay Graham, and former Latino "friend" John McCain, lead the pack. This 1868 constitutional amendment guaranteed citizenship to freed slaves and the children of immigrants, enshrined due process of law, and forbade states from abridging these rights.

The historical sweep of this threat is breathtaking. Most civil rights, anti-segregation and anti-discrimination laws protecting Blacks, other people of color, women, queers, and the disabled are rooted in the Fourteenth Amendment. Repeal would revive the segregationist Jim Crow system that flourished until the 1960s.

SB 1070 and its look-alikes are matched on the federal level by calls to repeal the Fourteenth Amendment. The historical sweep of this threat is breathtaking. Most civil rights laws are rooted in the Fourteenth Amendment.

Rationalizations center on the slander that women immigrate to the U.S. to "drop anchor babies" in order to gain legal residence. U.S. history is replete with similar racist and sexist stereotypes against women of color.

These legal assaults hark back to Hitler's laws, passed piece-meal in the 1930s. Motherhood was mandated for "Aryan" women. The Nuremburg laws defined Jews by their parentage, stripped them of citizenship, and banned them from jobs, education and marrying "Aryans." Other laws targeted Gypsies, the disabled, and queers. Together they laid the basis for the wholesale genocide of the Holocaust.

Fascists at the source

The ultra-right Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) wrote the current legislation. FAIR founder John Tanton pals around with Holocaust deniers, white citizens' councils, and neo-Nazis. Members of State Legislators for Legal Immigration, a FAIR-affiliated group, wrote or sponsored SB 1070 clones in several states, including Rhode Island, Missouri and Oklahoma. Being exposed for connections to white supremacists — and lying about it — by commentator Rachel Maddow hasn't kept FAIR representatives from testifying to Congress or being featured as "experts" in the national press.

FAIR is joined by a parade of tea party bigwigs, union busters funded by the billionaire Koch brothers, and racist legislators such as Arizona state senator Russell Pearce, SB 1070's author and neo-Nazi supporter. This right-wing smorgasbord lies behind increasingly anti-immigrant policies from Congress and the White House.

Immigrant rights movement surges

Students who organized sit-ins against SB 1070 as soon as it passed electrified the country. A kaleidoscope of grassroots organizations and famous, and not so famous, individuals followed, denouncing such laws.

Native American tribes led an enormous march and rally against the Arizona law on Memorial Day weekend. The Mississippi Immigrant Rights Alliance demonstrated in July below a statue of Dixiecrat Senator Theodore Bilbo, characterizing supporters of an SB 1070 look-alike bill as reincarnated segregationists. Massive opposition stopped a Massachusetts measure in its tracks.

Minnesota queer and immigrant rights advocates protested campaign donations to homophobic and xenophobic politicians by retailer Target. Unionists, sports fans, and other activists were arrested trying to deliver 110,000 petition signatures to a Minneapolis meeting of major league baseball owners, demanding they honor a boycott of Arizona and move the 2011 All Star Game.

Black Workers for Justice joined the Farm Labor Organizing Committee to protest SB 1070 in Charlotte, N.C., denouncing attempts to replicate it there. Immigrant rights groups, leftists, and unionists in South Carolina, Seattle, Detroit, New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and other cities have demonstrated against the Arizona law and heightened repression by the Obama administration. The Dignity Campaign calls for immigration reform without border militarization or guest worker programs that many consider virtual slavery, and for immediate legalization of the undocumented.

AFL/CIO President Richard Trumka denounced SB 1070 at a Phoenix rally in May, vowing that labor would demand defeat of reactionary laws targeting immigrants. Yet Trumka is silent as raids, deportations and border militarization increase under Obama. Most unions are consumed with electing Democrats in November. And in 2009, both labor federations overturned long-standing labor opposition to guest worker programs.

Immigrant defenders must push organized labor to live up to its historic slogan, "an injury to one is an injury to all." Labor has the strength and resources to unite the broad coalition needed to stop the scapegoating and fight for full rights for immigrants and all workers.

Build community/labor coalitions to defend immigrants! Call for open borders, repeal of anti-immigrant legislation, and jobs for all!

Muffy Sunde is a labor and immigrant rights activist and Freedom Socialist Party, Los Angeles Organizer. She can be reached at muffy_sunde@yahoo.com.

Grace Perry contributed research to this story.

This article was reprinted with permission from Freedom Socialist newspaper. www.socialism.com.

An open Muslim-Jewish letter to the greater Olympia community

As members of the local Muslim and Jewish communities who strongly support the recent decision of the Olympia Food Co-op to boycott Israeli goods, we feel called to add our voices to the discussion surrounding the Co-op's decision. Reading much of the local press, or listening to the arguments rehearsed by vocal opponents of the boycott, one gets the impression that the issue belongs essentially to two polar groups of community members. At one pole are those who are depicted as a small group of passionate, though regrettably misguided, activists who single-mindedly support the boycott. At the other pole is another small group who are fervently opposed to the boycott, either because they believe the boycott to be "anti-Semitic," or because they feel dissatisfied with the "process" through which the boycott was instituted, or with the absence of "dialogue" in the run up to the decision. In between these poles falls the greater Olympia community, painted as rife with division, and in dire need of "healing."

For those of us whose voices have been silenced and devalued, the demand for dialogue rings a bit hollow. Dialogue is a necessary condition for building a better world, but true dialogue is not possible unless it is between equals.

We wish to intervene in this discourse, which we feel seeks to make generalizations about the community at large, and yet denies us representation. As pro-boycott Jews, our voices have been silenced and delegitimized, treated as unrepresentative of the "true" feelings of the local Jewish community. As pro-boycott Muslims, our voices have been marginalized if even solicited at all, as if we are not members of the local community, or at least not members who matter. And yet we both have a unique stake in the issue, whether we have friends or family mired in the violence of the occupation, or because our identities as Muslims or Jews have been essentialized and exploited by those who seek to sustain this violence. Our support for the boycott thus not only derives from our elementary commitments to universal human rights, but equally from our shared sense of struggle in relation to the Israel-Palestine issue. We therefore proudly honor the Olympia Food Co-op for courageously reaffirming its core values by choosing to join the growing international movement for a *just* peace in Israel-Palestine.

There has been a great deal of talk about "process" and "dialogue," and we felt it was important to speak to these issues in particular. As members of communities which have time and again been denied the trappings of democracy, we understand the importance of democratic process. Yet we find the sudden preoccupation with process somewhat troubling for two reasons: firstly, because the institution of the boycott followed the Co-op's boycott policy to the letter; and, secondly, because the issue of process has only emerged in response to the issue of Israel-Palestine, whereas previous boycotts instituted by the Co-op have not elicited a single concern regarding process. From our perspective, it seems that those who claim that their concerns are purely ones of process, and totally unrelated to the politics of this issue, might benefit from a reexamination of the honesty of this claim. Yes, let us move towards greater democracy in all facets of our community, but let us not divorce these aspirations from our shared commitments to life, dignity, and self-determination for all peoples.

Similarly, as communities whose feelings and opinions have often been disregarded throughout history, we understand the importance of dialogue. But dialogue cannot be abstracted from the immensely unequal power relations which characterize the real world, including our local community. For those of us who are accustomed to having our voices heard and valued, perhaps dialogue seems an uncontroversial demand. For those of us whose voices have been silenced and devalued, the demand for dialogue rings a bit hollow. Dialogue is a necessary condition for building a better world, but true dialogue is not possible unless it is between equals. By demanding equality, the boycott is one small step towards the creation of the conditions for meaningful dialogue in Israel-Palestine. Let us also strive to create the conditions for meaningful dialogue here at home, which means, at a bare minimum, recognizing the importance of our communities' voices on this issue.

As we work to create these conditions, let us not forget that questions of process or dialogue cannot be divorced from the consequences of our actions. For, as residents of a nation which lends massive support to the occupation, we all have a stake in this issue. As Howard Zinn once said, "you can't be neutral on a moving train." Those who advocate rescinding the boycott may claim that their demands are not political, merely an outgrowth of their concerns for "process" and "dialogue;" but, in the real world, our actions have consequences for the lives of others, whether or not we choose to acknowledge it to ourselves.

In summary, as Muslims and Jews who have felt that our support for the boycott has been unheard or devalued, we ask the greater Olympia community to think long and hard about the way the discussion around the boycott has been framed, and to make space for those of us whose voices have been conspicuously absent from the discussion.

----SIGNATURES----

Hasan Aboutalep
Karim Ahmath
Aziz Aladin
Sakhawat Amin
Shareq Amin
Dr. Muhammad Ayub
Amadou Ba
Alex Becker
Peter Bohmer
Anne Fischel
Kaitlin Frady
Robert Gordon
Sophie Gordon
Benjamin Groves
Zoltán Grossman
Randal Hunt
Imran Kasmani
Nausheen Kasmani
Louis Keehn
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Sayad Khan
Socket Klatzker
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David Langstaff
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Matt Lester
Gar W. Lipow
Ruth E. Lipow
Fauziya Tajbhai Mohamedali
Farzana Sakhawat
Fazal Mohammed
Mustafa Mohamedali
Twahiru A. Mohammed
Dr. Jamil Qureshi
Natalie Redman
Abu Bakr Rony
Noah Sochet
Emily Weisberg
Hannah Weisberg
Ari Wildau
Amirah Ziada

An open letter to

by Olympia BDS

As community members and peace activists, we are proud that the Olympia Food Co-op has joined a rapidly growing global movement for social justice in a conflict for which we are all complicit. It is an honor to stand with Desmond Tutu and with prominent Palestinian and Israeli activists who are risking their lives to create a just peace.

As the Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz* noted recently about the Co-op and the boycott movement, "The sums involved are not large, but their international significance is huge."

Our commitment to working for peace in Israel and Palestine is intertwined with our commitment to the Olympia community. We have sought to educate the public through events with notable speakers such as Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb and Ali Abunimah.

Our next steps include hosting a visit by esteemed Jewish liberation theologian Marc Ellis and sponsoring a panel discussion on anti-Semitism, anti-Arab racism, and Islamophobia. We are dedicated to informing the local community to not only talk about peace and justice, but to make it a reality.

Fighting oppression

We also stand committed to fighting all forms of oppression.

The swastikas that appeared at a Jewish high school on Mercer Island last month affect us personally, for we boycott supporters are also Jews, Muslims, people of color, immigrants, and queers—everything that the swastika is summoned to oppose.

That is why we are alarmed by recent actions of boycott opponents in Olympia. At the last two Co-op board meetings, local boycott opponents were accompanied by questionable allies. This included the Northwest co-chair of StandWithUs, an organization that cynically exploits the oppression of queers in the Middle East despite their explicit protestations, and a person affiliated with the xenophobic anti-immigrant group the Minutemen.

Boycott opponents had the opportunity to speak and be heard by board members. Yet when it came time for board members to discuss many other important issues, boycott opponents insisted on disrupting the meeting, making it difficult for the board to do its job in serving the Co-op.

Additionally, at the Sept. 16 board meeting, boycott opponents repeatedly made Islamophobic references to BDS being the work of "jihadists" and warned the board that "your life is in danger with these people." To us, this mirrors the disturbing mood within the United States, where rampant Islamophobia is the norm.

Port Townsend—a model?

Opponents of the boycott are now citing the recent rejection of a boycott proposal in Port Townsend as a precedent for Olympia to follow. Not only is it strange to expect the Olympia Food Co-op to follow the dictates of a board from Port Townsend, but this account omits many details:

- The Port Townsend Co-op board president attempted to circumvent bylaws by organizing a closed-door meeting between the Co-op board and the Israeli Deputy Consul General, who had been dispatched to Port Townsend to thwart the boycott proposal in coordination with the Seattle chapter of StandWithUs.
- A racist anti-boycott cartoon appeared in the Aug. 18 Port Townsend Leader.
- Port Townsend Co-op workers were harassed by angry boycott opponents. Slurs such as "self-hating Jew" were directed against two of the Port Townsend boycott organizers who were former Israelis.
- A non-Native man stood outside the Port Townsend Co-op wearing a mock Native headdress and face paint, accosting Co-op shoppers and distributing racist literature against the boycott.

Meanwhile, the most vocal spokesperson for "It's Our Co-op" (the Olympia anti-boycott group) traveled to Port Townsend and joined the Port Townsend Co-op hours before its member forum in order to speak against the boycott as a "member." He then returned to Olympia and praised the Port Townsend forum as a beacon of democracy. At the same time, he wrote comments on the website of the Port Townsend Leader boasting that he had disrupted the Olympia Food Co-op's own community forum (where he stood up and screamed expletives) on August 12 and also defaming one of us by name in the same comments.

Against Bullying

It has been suggested that had the outcome been different—had the Olympia Co-op board rejected the boycott proposal—we boycott supporters would be acting the same way that boycott opponents are acting right now. That is absolutely untrue.

If the board had rejected the boycott, we would not have protested outside the Co-op. We would not have accosted staff or led a campaign of angry messages against the Co-op. We would not have attempted to smear the Co-op, interrupt board meetings, resort to pressure and intimidation to get our way, or threaten a loss in Co-op sales.

We would have been upset that the Co-op was not following its principles, but we value the Co-op too much to want to hurt it. Instead, we would have continued to follow process. We would have introduced a member-initiated ballot.

Therefore we are perplexed that boycott opponents reject this option and refuse to follow process. Instead, they have resorted to bullying, intimidation, disruption, fear-mongering, misinformation, racist/Islamophobic insults, and ultimatums to have their way. Is this the kind of "process" they want the Co-op to follow?

Not all opponents of the boycott have

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boycott opponents

acted inappropriately. We do not blame all boycott opponents for the actions of isolated individuals. However, many of these reprehensible actions have been committed or endorsed by leaders of the boycott opposition. In fact, one of the most aggressive people—someone who has disrupted board meetings, screamed into the Co-op, yelled expletives at the Aug. 12 community forum, made Islamophobic comments to the board, and who has told passersby that one of our colleagues is "the most evil man in Olympia"—is currently being hailed as the hero of the boycott opposition.

Our Requests to Boycott Opponents

With this in mind, we as fellow community members issue the following requests to those working against the boycott:

1. **Be civil to Co-op staff and volunteers.** Even if you oppose the boycott, there is no reason to take it out on them. Respect the work they do that keeps everyday operation of the Co-op running smoothly and enables the Co-op to serve our community.

2. **Be civil at Co-op board meetings.** It is unreasonable to accuse the board of not doing its job and simultaneously prevent the board from doing its job by interrupting board proceedings. The board has gone out of its way to accommodate boycott opponents at these meetings and elsewhere. Please give them the opportunity to work on all other important Co-op matters.

3. **Fight anti-Arab racism and Islamophobia in your ranks.** Reject racists such as the Minutemen or organizations such as StandWithUs that promote Islamophobia and exploit queers. Do not resort to claims about "jihadists" threatening the lives of board members, and do not dismiss or condescend to Muslims in the community.

4. **Acknowledge that pro-boycott Jews are just as Jewish.** Do not deny them their identities. If you want to be an ally to Jews, then recognize that there is no single "legitimate" Jewish voice. Loyalty to Israel is not a litmus test for Jewish identity. One can be a proud Jew and proudly support the boycott.

5. **Reject intimidation and bullying to get your way.** If you are concerned about process, if you are concerned about democracy, then use the democratic process that is readily available. The member-initiated ballot was designed as a tool for redress. It is counterproductive to make demands while rejecting the avenues to achieve those demands.

We do not blame all boycott opponents for the actions of isolated individuals. However, many of these reprehensible actions have been committed or endorsed by leaders of the boycott opposition.

6. **Avoid apocalyptic narratives.** The community is not torn to shreds. The Co-op is not on the verge of collapse. Olympia is not a "war zone." Do not resort to fear-mongering and scare tactics to get your way. And please, don't tell the board that their "lives are in danger."

7. **Stop spreading misinformation.** The boycott is not designed to "disband" Israel, we are not "paid outside agitators" set on destroying Olympia, sales are not down at the Co-op, and there was no "stolen vote." (A letter printed in the Olympian falsely claimed that "[s]ales are down" at the Co-op due to the boycott. In fact, Co-op records show a significant increase in sales following the boycott.)

8. **If you have questions about the boycott movement, then ask us!** Attend our informational events and read our literature. Don't believe everything you read on the Internet. We have spent an inordinate amount of time dispelling malicious rumors directed against us and against the process that we carefully followed.

9. **Be honest about your concerns.** Dialogue cannot happen when one party is not forthcoming. Is it about the "process" or is it about Israel? Would you be protesting if the Co-op had boycotted Djibouti instead? Would you have complained if the Co-op had followed the same process but rejected the boycott? If not, then be honest and say that your ultimate concern is about defending Israel. Only then can true dialogue begin.

10. **Take responsibility for your actions.** It is bizarre to create discord and disruption, to protest, to level accusations and spread misinformation, and to file grievances over the boycott—and then claim that the boycott must be rescinded because it is causing discord. The boycott doesn't make you do it. You choose to do it.

Boycott opponents repeatedly exploit the idea that the community is being "torn apart." This is true only to the extent that boycott opponents are willing to resort to misinformation, disruption, and bullying to have their way, rather than pursue the democratic process offered to them, which they disdainfully reject.

Time for a debate?

At this point, we feel it would be an educational opportunity to counter misinformation by participating in a civil and public debate about the boycott. We feel that a debate would allow interested parties to explain their positions and to dispel much of the misinformation that has been widely circulated.

We invite boycott opponents to work with us to establish this debate in order to increase understanding of the issues at hand. Let us involve the community in this discussion.

To participate, please contact us through our website, www.olympiabds.org.

Thank you.

Olympia BDS

TESC Divest Update

What has TESCDivest been up to since the summer?

by Nik Nerburn and Lucas Claussen, TESC Divest

TESCDivest has been sorta quiet over the summer - we are mostly students, after all. But we've been organizing ourselves for this upcoming school year and building more support for the student resolutions about Caterpillar Inc. and Divestment from Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine.

The student initiatives that were voted on last year by the Evergreen student body passed overwhelmingly. However, that doesn't mean that they've been *implemented*. The resolutions, one to ban all Caterpillar construction equipment from the Evergreen campus and one to encourage the college to divest from companies profiting from Israel's illegal occupation, are *non-binding*, which means that they ultimately need to be passed by the college administration.

The student votes last year were, in a sense, just a way of gauging the sentiments of students, because the administration has final say. That means that while we've given the college a mandate with the vote, we still need to keep up pressure to make sure that our mandate isn't quietly ignored. TESCDivest is inspired by similar initiatives by students at UC Berkeley, Hampshire College, and University of Michigan-Dearborn, and following a letter of encouragement from Desmond Tutu. Our work on campus is part of a greater international movement that seeks to find nonviolent solutions to ending the Palestine/Israel conflict. As the first university in the U.S. to have the general student body vote in favor of divestment, what happened last year was a historic voicing of solidarity with Palestinians.

After taking some regrouping time, we're back and ready to engage students and the administration with the clear mandate of the student vote's behind us. We are also encouraged by recent Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions struggles and successes in Olympia, the U.S. and around the world.

Our first event was an informational and education fliering of one of the Evergreen Foundations recent (and pretty successful!!) fundraisers, called "The Art of Living". The Administration brought alumni art for auction, and there was much wining and dining in the campus library. TESCDivest took the opportunity to bring out our finest attire and have our own educational event outside the front doors, called "The Art of Living Under Occupation". We had some good conversations with members of the Board of Trustees, the administration, alumni and members of the broader Evergreen community about divestment, and gathered a few signatures of support.

What has the college done to honor the student resolutions?

The administration has remained somewhat tepid toward the implications of the student resolutions. As so often happens, the administration keeps saying they need more time, discussion and input, all without any sort of guarantee that they will act.

We would have expected some small gestures of goodwill, by, for example, making Evergreen a CAT-Free Campus immediately, while the administration takes the time to seriously examine our investment portfolios. Ultimately, we want the college to divest from Israel's occupation of Palestine and to create a strong Socially Responsible Investment Policy with an unwavering commitment to human rights. But some concrete actions on their part to show that they are serious would be encouraging.

We understand the increased strain put onto the college from the economic downturn. At the same time, we remain opposed to the long-term trend of increased costs of education and decreased budgets for schools. In the long run, a socially responsible investment policy actually will *make* the college money (and attract socially responsible donors to give more!), but the administration and the state are thinking in woefully short-term ways. The college has remained silent on where and how it's money is invested (and by implication, what the college is profiting from), *except* for for the fact that our endowment is (for better or worse) bound together with the University of Washington's endowment.

Our work on campus is part of a greater international movement that seeks to find nonviolent solutions to ending the Palestine/Israel conflict.

What now?

We are anticipating that the student resolutions will be on the next Board of Trustees meeting (Wednesday, November 17th at Evergreen). We remain committed to seeing the resolutions brought forward and supported by the college administration, the Board of Trustees, and The Evergreen State College Foundation, and we are doing everything in our power to pull their heads from the sand.

We also have some exciting events coming up! The week of November 15th is the global Palestinian "Right to Education" week, which is meant to highlight the lack of higher education opportunities for Palestinian students because of the Israeli occupation. TESCDivest is organizing a political theater event in solidarity with students in Palestine. If you are an American student, you may find a parallel in the Palestinian predicament; for Americans, our endless wars are draining the funds of the states and is in part making college exorbitantly expensive and inaccessible. For many Palestinians, Israel's endless wars are making college literally inaccessible due to checkpoints, the racist apartheid wall and discriminatory travel policies. The Right to Education week is a chance for us to highlight this connection and draw attention to our role as Americans in this conflict.

TESCDivest sees our work as part of and in the context of a larger Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement that is growing and gaining momentum. We have some exciting plans for this year, and hope that after last year's successful student vote, we can garner and sustain the support needed to hold the college accountable to implementing the student resolutions. Beyond the next Board of Trustees meeting and the next few weeks, you may see us around the community, building support between various groups. As part of a broader network of solidarity, we hope our actions can inspire others in our community and beyond. There are lots of potential boycotts and divestment opportunities around town - and we're stronger when we're all in it together!

What can you do to support Divestment?

If you're interested in learning more about TESCDivest, check out our website, www.tescdivest.org, and look for our announcements and events on campus and in Olympia. *You can sign onto our petition asking for the college to implement the resolutions on our website, and you can contact Evergreen's President, Thomas 'Les' Purce at: purcel@evergreen.edu or 360.867.6100.*

Please tell him that you support the student resolutions and want the college to follow through in implementing them.

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Climate change, forests, biomass and the complex science of carbon sequestration

A conversation with Dr. Mark E. Harmon, Richardson Endowed Chair and Professor in Forest Science at Oregon State University

by Mike Coday

Mike Coday: Thank you, Dr. Harmon for agreeing to an interview with *Works in Progress*. I think it is safe to say that you are an expert on the carbon sequestration of forests. We look forward to your talk on Nov. 4 here in Olympia on forests and carbon cycling.

I have read your testimony to Congress from March 2009 and I think you did a great job of explaining carbon sequestration and forestry to the legislators and I recommend that folks read it for background. It is online at tinyurl.com/2eys4z2

I have read your testimony several times now and I have questions. You describe forests as a "leaky bucket" for carbon sequestration. There are some magnificent old growth forests here in the Northwest that appear to store huge amounts of carbon and create lots of benefits if undisturbed. But even these ancient forests leak some carbon back into the atmosphere through death and decomposition of trees. Proponents of forest management like to argue that these ancient forests are not efficient at carbon sequestration. What about that? What are the dynamics and true carbon consequences of cycling more forest land in the Northwest out of old growth and into a more commercial forest rotation?

Dr. Mark Harmon: The first thing to realize is that all biological systems, including forests, have carbon leaks. That's true of old forests or young forests. This means in time they will come to some kind of balance with regards carbon stores. The second thing to realize is that we need to consider how forests act at two distinct temporal scales: an instant in time versus over the long-term. As far as policy is concerned we need to examine forest carbon over the long-term and not an instant in time. That's because examining forests at an instant in time can be completely misleading. So let's take the contention that younger forests sequester more carbon than old-growth. I am taking sequestration to mean the instantaneous rate of carbon removal from the atmosphere and not stores, because clearly older forests store more carbon than younger forests. It is true that the net rate of sequestration of an old-growth forest can be lower than that of a younger forest. Many old-growth forests are probably close to carbon balance, which means their net sequestration rate is close to zero. There is some indication that in recent times, some old-growth forest could be continuing to have a positive uptake of carbon from the atmosphere. I have some doubts about that as a widespread phenomenon. Regardless of that issue this comparison of young and old depends on the age of the young forest. That is because very young forests actually release carbon to the atmosphere! In the Pacific Northwest, it can take 10 to 50 years before young forests remove carbon from the atmosphere. Before that age they are releasing carbon to the atmosphere. So it is true that some young forests are taking up more carbon than old-growth forests, but it is also true that some young forests are releasing far more carbon than old-growth forests. Which raises an interesting question: how does one maintain the young forests that are taking up carbon without having even younger forests that are releasing carbon? It's not possible, yet those suggesting that converting old-growth forests to younger forests seem to be overlooking that rather obvious fact. Examined over the long-term one finds that the net carbon sequestration rate of old-growth forests and all the ages required to maintain a harvest system theoretically have a net carbon balance of zero! The leaks in the old-growth forest come from trees dying and decomposing. The leaks in the young forest system come from the creation of dead wood and other forms of slash that decompose. It turns out that young forests have larger carbon leaks than old-growth forests and so on average younger forests store less carbon. So converting an old-growth forest to a younger, plantation forest loses carbon to the atmosphere. And yes, this even includes the storage of carbon in wood products.

It can take 10 to 50 years for young forests to start removing carbon from the atmosphere. Before that, they release carbon.

Mike: I have more questions on the carbon leakage question with a focus on the forest land that is already in commercial rotation. It's clear from your testimony that burning the ground as a step in the harvest and replanting of commercial forests increases the carbon leakage into the atmosphere by as much as 10%. I also understand from your testimony that fire and other significant disturbance of the forest, natural or commercial process decreases the carbon storage capacity of forest land for a period of time. I have lots of questions about the burning of slash and waste material. I wonder if we aren't better off from in terms of carbon dioxide release if we leave the waste material on the ground to decompose slowly rather than burning? Can you talk about that?

Mark: It is certainly possible to harvest and replant without the burning step. The presence of slash, particularly branches and tops can make it difficult to move and hence increases the cost of replanting. That's largely an economic/profit issue. Depending on the density of slash, it can also reduce chances of successful tree regeneration in the short-term. But this is more likely an issue where slash is piled rather than scattered about, and one can certainly plant around the slash piles. Burning the slash piles opens up more for planting, but one has to be careful not to degrade the soil by overheating it. If the slash is left it will take some time for it to completely decompose. People often talk about decomposition as if it occurred in an instant. In the Pacific Northwest, it can take anywhere from 30 to 60 years for slash to decompose away. So that means that over a harvest rotation interval of say 60 years that from 15 to 35% of that slash carbon is stored over that period. If that slash is burned in a site preparation fire or for biofuels that carbon is immediately released and the average storage of slash carbon over that period is zero. So any form of burning greatly reduces the store of carbon in slash. Now in the case of biofuels one can gain some carbon back in a carbon offset. That offset can range in value from 35 to 90% of the carbon content of the biofuel. That's because biofuels contain less energy per unit carbon than fossil fuels. So in some cases leaving the slash "stores" as much carbon as the biofuel gains back, while in others cases biofuel "stores" more than the slash in terms of an offset. It really depends on the speed of decomposition and the net energy content of the biofuel.

People often talk about decomposition as if it occurred instantly. In the Pacific Northwest, it can take anywhere from 30 to 60 years for slash to decompose.

Also, waste is a human value concept. If someone wants to use something and does not use it then it is viewed as a waste. If one does not want to use something and one doesn't use then there is no waste! But conservation of mass tells us the "waste" is still there. There is no biological or ecological concept of waste. This term just tells me how someone values something or an action.

Mike: Let's talk about biomass. You say in your testimony with biomass energy generation that the harvested carbon is theoretically stored as unused fossil fuel and that it is critical that the unused fossil fuel remained in an unused state for decades for biomass to actually reduce the accumulation of green house gases in the atmosphere. The carbon neutrality claim of biomass really depends on the non-burning of fossil fuels, not on the regrowth and carbon sequestration potential of the biomass or forest. How will we ever know if the theoretical storage is actually occurring? Aren't market pressures going to drive extraction and use of fossil fuels that are readily available to the market? What constraints can possibly be put in effect to prevent biomass from becoming an adjunct power source instead of a replacement fuel that would actually result in the storage of fossil fuels? Do you have any thoughts about how this theoretical storage idea would become a reality on or under the ground?

Mark: This is a fundamental problem with all carbon offsets. Biomass only acts as a store if the fossil fuel carbon is not used. If the fossil fuel carbon is used then it goes into the atmosphere and causes the same problem. When this form of leakage occurs in an offset, it's true that someone else released the carbon, but it's also true that the atmosphere doesn't care who released the carbon. The life of carbon in the atmosphere is considerable; some simulation

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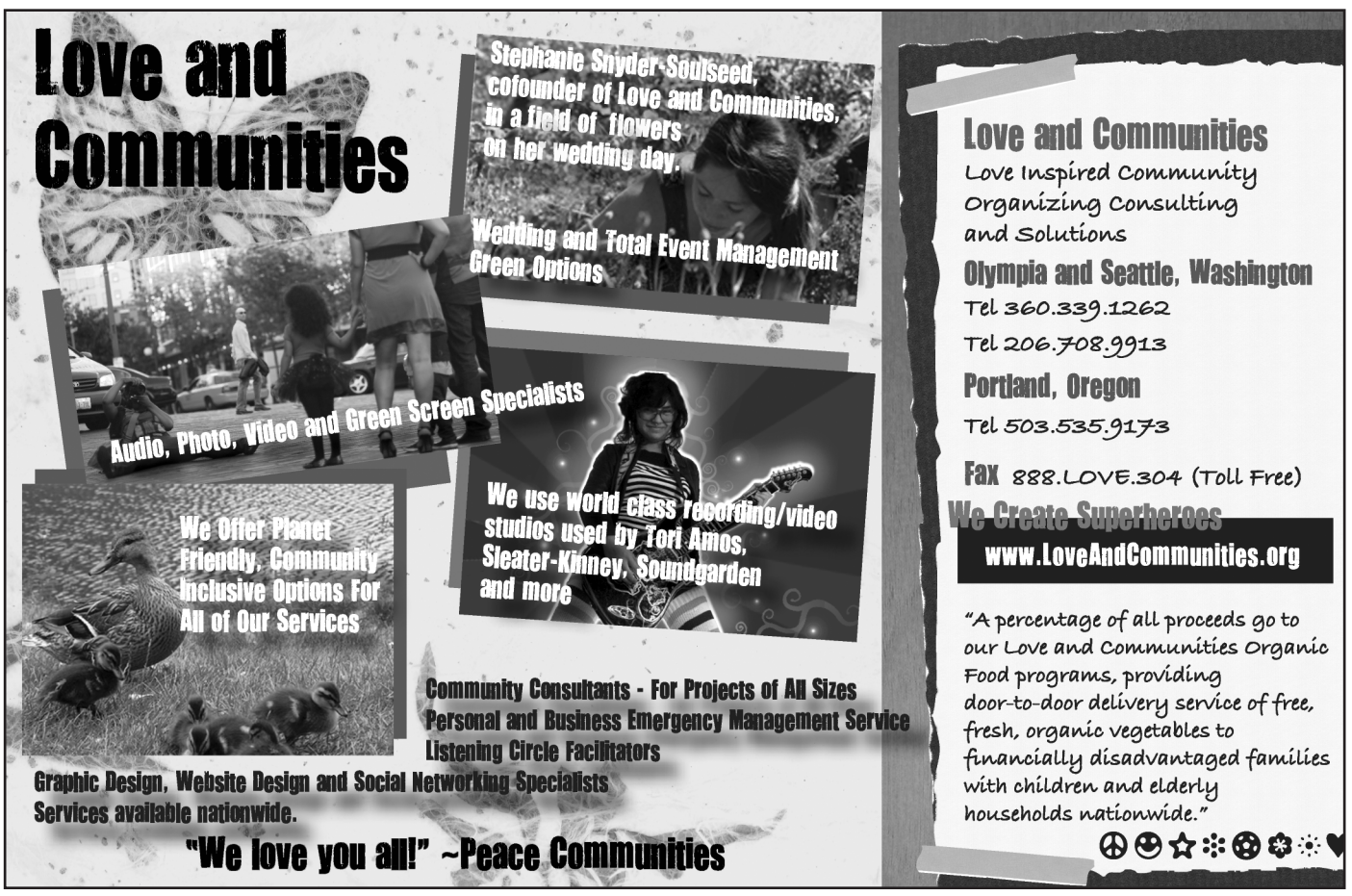
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experiments indicate that it may take thousands of years to remove the current pulse of fossil fuel carbon. But let's just say the average life-span of carbon in the atmosphere is 100 years to avoid being too draconian. That means that if the use of biofuels delays fossil fuel use by less than 100 years, then the concentration of carbon in the atmosphere is going to increase. And to have a positive effect on climate, we need to decrease the concentration as quickly as possible. Bear in mind, it is highly likely that even if the concentration of carbon remained the same we would have some future warming.

I agree there are market pressures that may cause "un-used" fossil carbon to be used. This causes what is termed a leakage and leakage is a very difficult issue to deal with. First, of all we don't know where the fossil carbon is actually stored as it could be in many places and in many forms. So we can't go somewhere and say "there it is." Second, it's hard to assign "blame" to the one using the fossil carbon. So it has to be dealt with in aggregate by examining to see if offsets are actually reducing the overall release of fossil fuel carbon. The proof has to be in the pudding so to speak. To make sure that we don't overestimate offsets, we probably need to discount them based on some sense of how long the delay in fossil fuel use might be. If that delay was one year, it would have virtually no effect. If it is approaching forever, then the entire offset would be counted. This is an area of research that needs considerable attention.

Mike: The biomass proponents also want to claim carbon neutrality by claiming the carbon sequestration that will occur with the regrowth of the forests or biomass material. Biomass enthusiasts often seem to find something important about the "renewability"of the fuel material, but I don't see why the folks who construct a biomass plant get to claim the carbon sequestration credit for forest growth and regrowth that is going to occur with or without the commercial use of forest waste. Here is a list of questions that I have for you specifically about the carbon neutrality claims:

1. How can we account for the carbon offsets, carbon credits, that are being claimed in the search for carbon neutrality? How many times will this carbon credit be claimed against its single occurrence on the ground?

2. When an institution such as the Evergreen State College claims carbon neutrality for lands that are already in forestry rotation, how does this claim have any validity? Isn't the forestry industry that is managing these lands more entitled to claim the carbon credit of reforestry against their carbon footprint?

3. You talk about a national accounting, verification and monitoring system for the carbon stores. How can this be developed? Isn't that a "big government" type of function that is pretty unlikely to have any traction in the political realm?

4. If there is no national accounting and verification system, can we trust anything that is claimed regarding renewability and carbon storage?

Mark: I agree that one hears a great deal about carbon neutrality. I think it has validity, but probably not in the sense that is often being invoked. Forests are renewable resources, but they are not instantaneously renewable. They take time to renew, unlike solar and hydropower. Moreover, while alga and annual crops are not instantaneously renewable, they are closer to that ideal than forests. One also has to realize that forests are renewable to different levels depending on how they are managed. The amount that is renewed is largely controlled by the leakiness of the system that is created.

As I pointed out before, if a forest is managed over time with a relatively similar interval between harvests and a similar level of intensity, then the forest will come into a carbon balance. Since it is in balance, then it exhibits carbon neutrality. If we are talking about a small area of forest, we might only see this over time. However, in large area with many ages of forests we would see this neutrality over the large area in any given year. The problem comes in when we convert from one kind of disturbance to another. This changes the amount that is stored when the forest system reaches a balance, which is largely dependent on how carbon leaky the forest becomes. The only way to have the system remain carbon neutral during a change in the system is to have exactly the same amount of leaks. That is you can change the form of the leaks, but you can't make them larger. If one does that, then the system stores less carbon and a carbon debt is created. That debt can be paid off gradually by use of biofuels, but one needs to be aware of several issues. The more rapidly one harvests or the more one takes the faster one can pay off the debt, but it also means the greater the debt to pay becomes! And when carbon debts are incurred, they add a lag in the time that the system takes to become carbon neutral.

The life of carbon in the atmosphere is considerable; some simulation experiments indicate that it may take thousands of years to remove the current pulse of fossil fuel carbon.

To avoid the issue of counting carbon uptake over and over in forests, one has to apply a rule termed additionality. That is, the carbon uptake needs to be additional over what happens when a business as usual practice is followed. So if one is already in carbon balance or carbon neutral one can not count only the periods of uptake, one has to also deduct the periods of carbon release. If no steps are taken to change from business as usual then one can't count the store as an offset. And one can also only count the amount of carbon increase that is permanently stored. By permanent we really don't mean permanence of particular carbon atoms though, because carbon atoms are always moving around and exchanging from one form to another in the biological world. What we are talking about in forests is the average amount of carbon the forest can maintain. This is another reason that we need to look at this problem over a long time-frame and a large area because this is when and where the permanent store of carbon becomes obvious. If the average store of carbon does not increase, then one has essentially no net carbon sequestration and there is no offset to count.

I realize that there is a great suspicion of government these days. However, government can be a useful tool. As I recall, the government got us to the Moon and back. So government has a major role to play in funding research that investigates the basic carbon processes, how they can be applied, to rigorously assess various proposed policies, and to create the tools required to actually pull this off. Government is the entity that can set up the general standards and accounting procedures that ensure that forest carbon offsets are credible and effective. Without such a system I would have very little faith in forest carbon offsets. That's because I have seen too many trying to game the system by applying incomplete to fundamentally flawed analysis methods. In fact I believe that if the later continues much longer the entire forest sector is going to be deemed to have little credibility. This would be too bad because forests have a great deal of potential in helping mitigate climate change.

Mike: The starting point of the forest rotation and commercial use of forest products seems to be a key to maximizing the carbon storage. So, if the starting point is ground that is in pasture, or in a short crop rotation, like alfalfa, and that ground is replanted in commercial forest, then the gains in carbon storage is very large, but if the starting point of the ground is current commercial forestation, than the gain available is much lower, but can be maximized through careful forest management. Can you talk about this issue?

Mark: The starting point is critical to the question of whether a carbon debt is created by a proposed action. If one starts with an older forest it's pretty hard to not create a carbon debt because almost any other kind of younger forest stores less carbon on average. On the other hand, starting with an agricultural field it's pretty easy to gain carbon by planting a forest. If one already has a forest management system going it might be possible to keep the amount of leakiness the same and keep it carbon neutral, but this is likely very hard to do.

The only way to ensure proper accounting is to have an accepted, scientifically justifiable standard that is followed. This would include what needs to be measured as well as the need for additionality and permanence. If these guidelines are not followed, then the carbon is not counted and can't be sold or traded. And I would not encourage anyone to buy or trade carbon that is accounted for without independent stan-

▸ **CARBON,** continued on page 17

Open letter to ORCAA

This letter was presented to Fran McNair, Executive Director of Olympic Regional Clean Air Agency (ORCAA) by Jack Miles and Christine Armond, during an October 6th demonstration at ORCAA.

October 6, 2010

Dear Ms. McNair,

Today, once again, citizens from Mason, Thurston, Jefferson, Lewis and Clallam Counties have gathered here at the ORCAA offices to demonstrate our concern for the well being of our families, friends, towns, state and in fact, the entire planet.

The role of ORCAA should be to protect the people who reside in the Northwest from environmental degradation. This degradation is primarily a product of those industries that use technology and processes that are inherently toxic and polluting. Specifically, we are here today to protest the unconstrained expansion of biomass incineration as a means of energy production.

The release of millions of tons per year of CO2 from just one biomass incinerator is a direct assault on the biosphere of this planet. We are in an environmental crisis situation, and do not have the luxury of waiting decades or more for the released CO2 to be reabsorbed by the growth of new trees. With many incinerators planned for Washington alone, this giant release of CO2 will contribute to the global warming crisis and accelerate it.

ORCAA should not cause harm. The promotion of biomass energy production schemes is detrimental to the planet and its inhabitants. While accelerating global warming, biomass incineration will expose all of us to greatly increased amounts of 2.5×m, or smaller, particulate matter (PM2.5), and other toxins, which will shorten our lifespans by increasing respiratory diseases, heart diseases, and all manner of pathologies. Children and the elderly will be affected the most. Our children, who will have to live through the coming environmental crisis, will be doubly affected. ORCAA should be promoting solar and wind energy.

In Mason County, the town of Shelton is facing the possibility of having three biomass incinerators in operation. Shelton is a small city with less than 10,000 people. How can this be considered acceptable? ORCAA's stated mission and vision is:

Mission: *We promote air quality and take actions that protect the health and welfare of people and the natural environment in ORCAA's jurisdiction (Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Pacific, and Thurston counties).*

Vision: *All individuals in ORCAA's jurisdiction especially children and the elderly-can live, work, and play in a healthful and clean environment, free from the harmful and destructive effects of air pollution.*

If ORCAA approves the new permits, it will be clear that the stated mission and vision of the EPA and ORCAA are a disgraceful sham. Both the Adage and Simpson incinerators are solely for the purpose of extracting profit at the expense of many thousands of people who will never benefit in any way. This holds true for the incinerators in Clallam, Jefferson, Thurston Counties as well. All of this is for the sake of corporate profit and we, the people, will be paying for it with our lives, health, and happiness for years.

Again, we demand that a moratorium be placed on biomass incinerator permits to allow time for new medical research results, and the claims of carbon neutrality to be examined in open, public hearings, and scientific debate. The future of green energy production cannot be in the hands of the unrestrained, environmentally destructive, biomass incineration proponents.

Sincerely,

Concerned Citizens of Mason, Thurston, Jefferson and Clallam Counties

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Photo by Pat Rasmussen of the World Temperate Rainforest Network

Race, Racism, Xenophobia and Migration

Speech to World Social Forum

by Bill Fletcher Jr.,
BlackCommentator.com

"From October 8-11 in Quito, Ecuador, the 4th World Social Forum on Migration was held. Hundreds of activists and scholars from around the world participated in some of the most interesting plenary sessions and workshops of any conference I have attended.

"The conference was an eye-opening experience. Migration was examined on various levels, including global economic, political, military and environmental factors, all of which influence migration. The International Labor Organization estimates that at least 83 million people are currently migrating, a figure that is bound to grow for many reasons, particularly climate change. Yet in the face of this mass migration of human beings, there are political forces that have taken advantage of the fear that is often produced through demographic changes in order to advance right-wing, irrationalist and xenophobic politics. This, too, was addressed at the conference.

"I was asked to deliver a key note speech to one of the plenary sessions that addressed discrimination and xenophobia. The following is the text of the remarks that I delivered. I hope that you find them of interest and use."

-Bill Fletcher, Jr.

Let me begin by thanking the organizers for inviting me to engage in this discussion.

The nature of the remarks I am to offer - which focus on the issues of race/racism, xenophobia and migration - are more than enough for a multiple week class. Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately for you, I do not have multiple weeks to deliver it. So, in the next fifteen minutes my hope is to offer an overview of the relationship of these issues and end with some suggestions regarding a manner to rethink global solidarity in the context of migration in the 21st century.

We must begin by establishing, without any ambiguity, that 'race' is not a biological or genetic category, but is a political construction. The origin of *all* of humanity is to be found in southern Africa, so in that sense, all of humanity is African.

Yet the notion of race, and the corresponding practice and theory of racism is very real. Prior to both the so-called 'Reconquista' in Spain with the Catholicization of Iberia and the purge of the Moors and the Jews in the 15th century, as well as the English occupation and colonization of Ireland in the 16th century, 'race,' as we have come to know it, did not exist on planet Earth. While there were certainly religious, tribal, ethnic and imperial conflicts, this was transformed over the course of the end of the 15th century and throughout the 16th and 17th centuries. Race came to be associated with so-called inferior and superior peoples, and fundamentally with the occupation of lands and the displacement of populations. Eventually, this came to be associated with skin color, but it is worth noting that in the beginning race did not depend on skin color, with Irish Catholics and Spanish Jews being a case in point. This overall process of racial construction was linked with the development of capitalism and in that context, the notion of race must be understood as an ideological and institutional mechanism for both the suppression of specific populations in perpetuity, as well as the introduction of social control over the working masses as a whole, be they of the suppressed/oppressed population or of the suppressor/oppressor population.

We must begin by establishing, without any ambiguity, that 'race' is not a biological or genetic category, but is a political construction. Yet the notion of race, and the corresponding practice and theory of racism is very real.

In Latin America, the art form and classification code called the castas, along with the introduction in both North and South America of slavery for life for specific populations-Africans-and marginalization and genocide perpetrated others-Indigenous-had nothing to do with science generally or genetics specifically. Rather, it became a means to divide up populations, turning them against one another through the associated system of racial privileges that tended to be meted out according to how close someone got to being supposedly pure white. 'White' was always the reference point for the dominant bloc, even though this did not in any way mean that everyone who was designated by the ruling classes to be 'white' was automatically part of the ruling classes. It has also been the case that who is and is not considered white in a specific society is not always self-evident. A classic example from US history in the early 20th century was the debate over whether Armenians were to be considered 'white' or not.

In sum, the construction of race was linked, from the beginning, to the rise of capitalism and later imperialism. It was not an add-on or a device that was to be used and thrown away at a whim.

The second piece that is important to grasp about race and migration is that the current global wave of migration, which the International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates to be more than 86 million, is fundamentally different from earlier waves during the history of capitalism, i.e., those from the 1500s through the early 1900s. In the waves of migrations that began with the invasion of the Western Hemisphere and the colonization of other parts of what we reference today as the global South, the migrating populations were part of the process of colonization and, as in the cases of the USA, Canada, Australia, and South Africa, to name just four locales, the establishment of formal settler states. These migrating populations, irrespective of whether they were persecuted in their European countries of origin, served as part of a process in the construction of colonial and settler states. Even when they engaged in wars of independence with their European colonial sponsors, these were struggles that were not truly emancipatory, but were struggles to redefine the terms of a particular relationship. To put it another way, most of the independence struggles represented a break with a colonial power-and a renegotiation of the relationship-but not a break with the key social and economic institutions, e.g., slavery in the Western Hemisphere; the Latifundia in Latin America, that were hallmarks of the colonial period. As such, the native populations were never true allies with the insurgents, but were, at best, allies of convenience (example: Native Americans used by both sides in the French and Indian Wars 1754-1763).

It should be noted that there were other migration patterns that did not originate in Europe. Migration from China and Japan to the Western Hemisphere in the mid to late 19th century, for instance, had a different character and particularly in the case of the migration of these Asian populations to the USA, there was intense hostility that was visited upon Asian migrants, a hostility that has lasted for generations. This is worth noting since the European migrants, even when experiencing a hostile reception by prior European migrants, were generally absorbed into the 'white bloc' after their 'credentials' as white people were established. Asian migrants in the 19th and early through mid-20th centuries faced a very different challenge since they were not accepted into a white bloc. They were placed, depending on the country or territory to which they migrated, into a racial hierarchy but they were not considered white people.

European migrants were generally absorbed into the 'white bloc' after their 'credentials' as white people were established. Asian migrants faced a very different challenge, since they were not accepted into a white bloc.

The character of migrations began to change in the early 1900s when populations from colonies proceeded to relocate to the imperial centers. The migration patterns that we are witnessing today are a continuation and acceleration of this process. In the absence of self-determination and with the deformed economic and political structures imposed on colonial and semi-colonial territories, populations began to shift. Separately, there were population shifts between and among colonial and semi-colonial countries. The migration of Haitians to the Dominican Republic that began in the 19th century, for instance, is just such an example of the latter, and one that reminds us of the manner in which xenophobia can take on genocidal proportions when a so-called native population is manipulated through fear. Specifically, race was constructed in such a way in the Dominican Republic that there was a generalized denial of the African roots of most of the population and a distain for anyone described as being 'black.' The dictator Rafael Trujillo took advantage of this situation to move an anti-Haitian pogrom in 1937 in which more than 20,000 Haitians were murdered, having been blamed by Trujillo as having been the source of the Dominican Republic's many problems.

Current waves of migration, then, have as their source both a continuation of these factors, plus additional factors, including but not limited to wars, neoliberal globalization, imperial foreign policies and climate change. Time does not permit me to examine each of these. In this situation, however, we must note, that the 'racialization' of migrants has taken on a particular significance.

At the global scale such racialization is found in the broad characterization of European/white vs. non-European/non- white. What this means, particularly in the post-World War II context, is that the 'problem' of migration has usually been associated not with the general question of migrants and refugees, but the specific question of the shifting of non- white populations away from their homes of origin to the imperial metropole (usually meaning to the country that was the historical imperial/colonial dominationist force over their particular oppressed nation/territory/people). The non-white migrant has been presented as the 'evil' or the problem by the so-called 'nativist' forces in the global North on a racial basis. As the theorist Etienne Balibar has pointed out, however, this racial construction is a bit different from traditional racial notions since it does not *overtly* presume superiority/inferiority (certainly on an alleged genetic basis) but rather articulates an 'other-ness' based on cultural incompatibility.

To explain this point for a moment, let us take an example from the United States. As you know, the issue of illegal or undocumented migration has been a major watchword for the political Right since at least the 1970s. In the USA, the face of the undocumented migrant is, in the popular imagination, not color neutral but is brown and black. It is largely-though not exclusively-the face of the Latino despite the fact that undocumented migration has never been restricted to this group. In the 1980s and early 1990s there was significant Irish migration to the USA, an important percentage of which was undocumented. Yet Irish migration to the USA during that period was never defined by right-wing or mainstream sources as being problematic.

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acupuncture is pretty cool.

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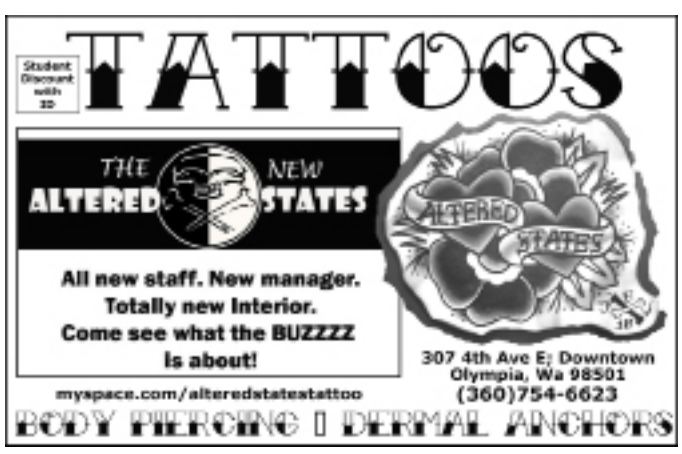


For all intents and purposes it was ignored. Documented *and* undocumented migration from Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Mexico during that same period, however, was defined as being a problem because the unspoken message was that the Irish can be absorbed into the dominant white bloc in the USA, whereas the Haitians, Dominicans and Mexicans represent an 'other' population that is culturally incompatible.

The racialization of migrants, however, is not something that is limited to conflicts in and with the global North. The xenophobic response to migrants in parts of the global South, be it the genocide against Haitians in the 1930s under the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic or the more recent attacks on migrants in South Africa by mobs, points to forces largely driven by limited-and often declining-resources that results in toxic competition between populations. This competition becomes racialized where the migrants are portrayed as the force that is incompatible with the needs and existence of the dominant population. They become the 'Alien,' so to speak, both literally-that is, in terms of the law-and figuratively-that is, in terms of the popular imagination. This competition for resources, we must note, is not something that exists in the abstract but is a phenomenon related to the rise of neo-liberal globalization and the dramatic polarization of wealth and resources we have witnessed on a world scale. When we have a situation, for instance, where 225 individuals have the accumulated wealth of the bottom 47% of the world's population it becomes clear that those at the bottom will be struggling to make do with what is left to them by those who have accumulated so much.

With regard the question of migration and the dialectic between the global North and the global South, we must understand that the political Right plays upon what a US Hip Hop/Rap group called 'Public Enemy' described once as a fear of a Black planet. When I use the term 'Black' here I mean it more in the manner that many of us used it in the 1960s and 1970s – a term referencing not just people of more recent African origin but people from the former colonies and semi-colonies. Changing global demographics along with changing economics and politics have become a source of fear and insecurity for much of the global North, specifically, for the so-called white populations. The fundamental source of this insecurity actually is rooted in both the weakening of traditional imperialist relationships along with the rise of neo-liberal globalization and its transformation of both domestic and international conditions for working people. To put it another way, as the living standard for the working population in the global North declines due to the neo-liberal transformation-including the transference of wealth to the rich-the 'spatial' violations that are the result of migration come to represent more of a perceived threat to that same population. That 'threat' may be in terms of competition for employment in certain sectors, but more often than not it is a psychological threat in which the working populations of the global North come to recognize that imperialism's impact can no longer be perceived as being solely an external matter but is also manifested internally - that is, the security that once existed is now long-gone.

In the 1980s and early 1990s there was significant Irish migration to the USA, an important percentage of which was undocumented. Yet Irish migration to the USA during that period was never defined by right-wing or mainstream sources as being problematic.

What are some of the implications of this analysis? Let me suggest the following.

1. A progressive response to migration cannot be grounded on abstract moral principles but must be grounded in an understanding of the historic relationship between the migrating population and the target of migration: The absence of an analysis that provides a context inevitably leads to failure. If one cannot explain the historical roots as to why a migration pattern is unfolding and the relationship of the policies of the migration target to the migrating population, then the migration may not make any sense or can be perceived as the equivalent of an invasion.

2. The destruction of lands, nations and peoples by imperialism, and its current incarnation as neo-liberal globalization is resulting in unprecedented population shifts: The impact of imperialism on land use, climate change, ethnic rivalries, etc., is leading to increasing competition for resources as well as population shifts. In this environment right-wing ideologies, grounded in a racialization of other populations, has advanced in both the global North and global South with the objective of excluding or marginalizing migrant populations, and in some cases, exterminating them altogether.

3. Racialization, as a process, is not only a matter of the perception of the migrating population by the 'native' population but also the manner through which the migrating population perceives dynamics within migrating target nation: This particular point is one that could and should be the topic of an entire discussion. The migrating population does not migrate with a blank consciousness, particularly on matters of race. It travels to the target nation with a racial consciousness that is shaped by the ideologies, histories and experiences from the home country. It is also shaped by the perceptions of the racial hierarchy in the target country. Thus, and by way of example, Latinos migrating to the USA from the Dominican Republic, are shaped by the historical antipathy between the Dominican Republic and Haiti; the bizarre racial denial and oppression that was perpetrated by the Trujillo regime; as well as understanding of how white supremacy operates in the USA, including but not limited to which populations have what standing in the US imperial/racial hierarchy.

The struggle for justice for migrant workers is directly connected to the struggle against neo-liberal globalization. The destruction of Earth's resources and the massive accumulation of wealth by a minority of the planet to the disadvantage of the majority, means that billions find themselves in a struggle for survival.

4. A radical, anti-racist practice must be introduced in order to build solidarity and respond to anti-immigrant and xenophobic ideologies and practices: The racialization of current migration has several objectives. One is the creation of a permanent, marginal, powerless and subordinate working stratum. This is summarized in the notion that migrant workers will do work that 'native' workers avoid. The other aspect of the racialization is exactly the opposite, that is, the use of the 'Other' as a way of creating a renewal of the dominant white bloc and the uniting behind a right-wing populist agenda. Right-wing populism can sometimes be confused for progressive, popular-democratic politics, if one avoids race. Right-wing populism often seizes on language from the Left in order to strengthen its base among working people from the 'native' population. To break this alignment, the racist nature of right-wing populism must be unpacked and exposed and a politics advanced that focuses on the development of an alternative, progressive bloc.

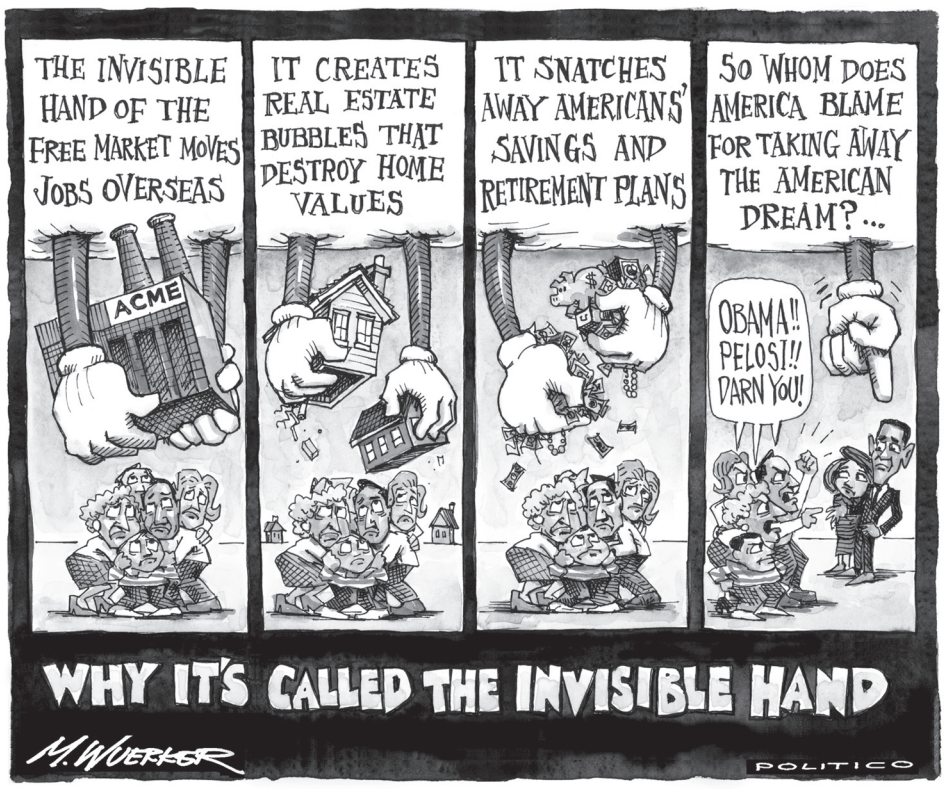
The struggle for justice for migrant workers is directly connected to the struggle against neo-liberal globalization. The destruction of Earth's resources and the massive accumulation of wealth by a minority of the planet to the disadvantage of the majority, means that billions find themselves in a struggle for survival. One option has become migration, but rather than migration being accepted as the reality of a modern economy, it has brought with it demonization of those who migrate, covert exploitation of the migrant, and the use of the migrant in fundamentally racist ways to serve as scapegoat for the economic injustice being felt by so many.

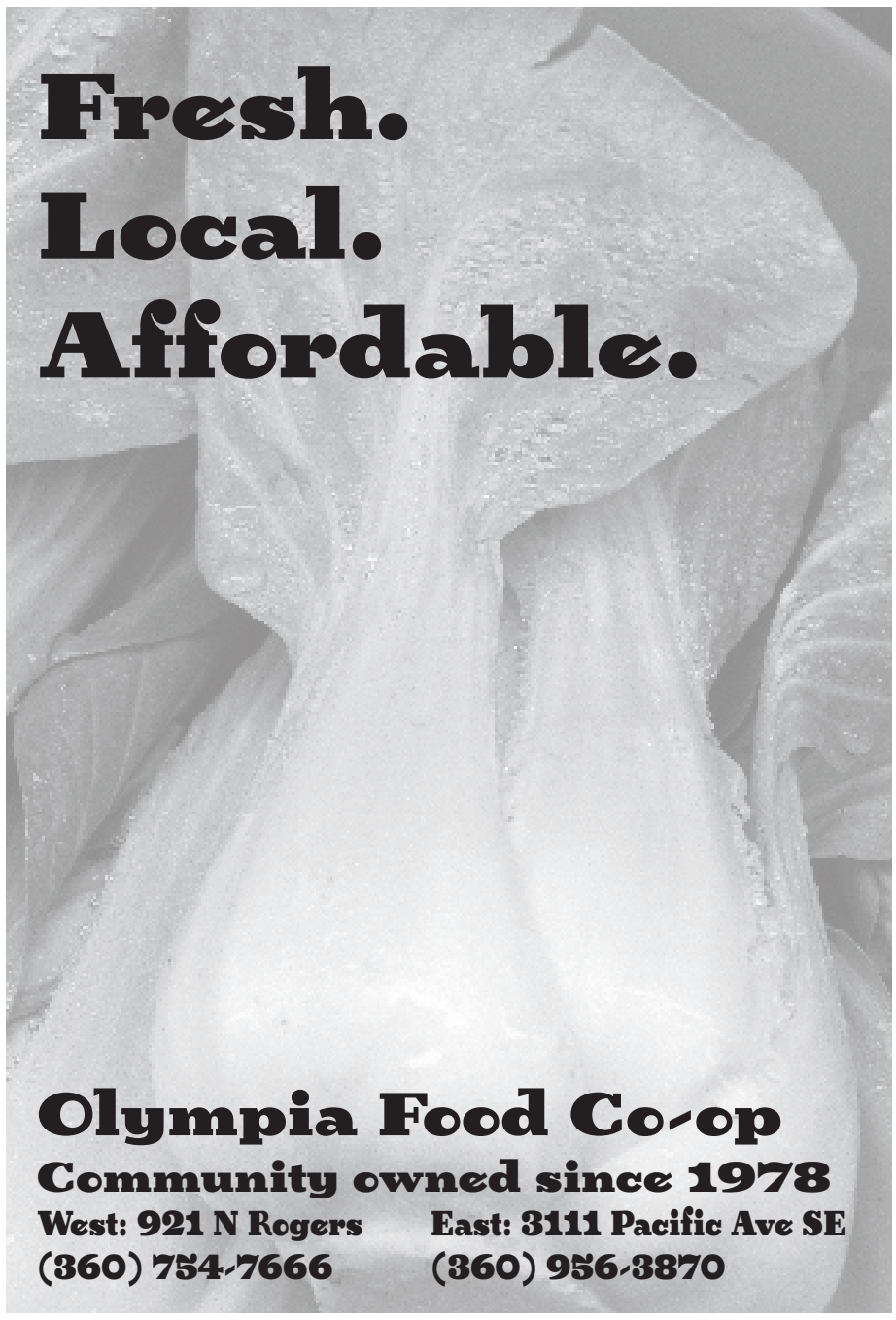
The struggle for justice for the migrant worker is inextricably connected to the fight for racial justice, and, indeed, the fight for broader social justice. This struggle must be integrated into our various battles and not placed to one side as one additional issue on a long list of issues.

Thank you.

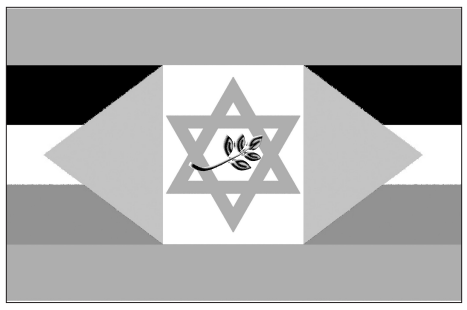
BlackCommentator.com Editorial Board member, Bill Fletcher, Jr., is a Senior Scholar with the Institute for Policy Studies, the immediate past president of TransAfrica Forum and co-author of, Solidarity Divided: The Crisis in Organized Labor and a New Path toward Social Justice (University of California Press), which examines the crisis of organized labor in the USA.

The Black Commentator: An independent weekly internet magazine dedicated to the movement for economic justice, social justice and peace - Providing commentary, analysis and investigations on issues affecting African Americans and the African world. www.BlackCommentator.com


THE INVISIBLE HAND OF THE FREE MARKET MOVES JOBS OVERSEAS
ACME
IT CREATES REAL ESTATE BUBBLES THAT DESTROY HOME VALUES
IT SNATCHES AWAY AMERICANS' SAVINGS AND RETIREMENT PLANS
SO WHOM DOES AMERICA BLAME FOR TAKING AWAY THE AMERICAN DREAM?...
OBAMA!! PELOSI!! DARN YOU!
WHY IT'S CALLED THE INVISIBLE HAND
M. WUERKER
POLITICO



Crazy Country



by Adam Keller

Adam Keller is a long-time Israeli peace activist and the spokesperson for Gush Shalom, an organization that calls for a Palestinian state with pre-1967 borders.

What follows are excerpts from his blog "Crazy Country." You can follow his blog at adam-keller2.blogspot.com

A week without Racism

October 29, 2010

Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu, the Chief Rabbi of Safed, published a ruling forbidding residents to sell or rent their homes to Arabs. And Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, Spiritual Leader of the Shas Party, tends to the same position. Not that the distinguished rabbis are racists, God forbid. Of course not. The Rabbis just checked and found that under Jewish religious law, Jews may not sell or rent their homes to non-Jews. And rabbis are constrained, of course, to maintain the Jewish religious law.

Oren Milstein, Deputy Mayor of Karmiel, strongly called upon residents not to sell or rent their homes to Arabs, and established the Red Email to which you can inform on a neighbor known to be selling to Arabs. Not that Milstein is a racist, God forbid. Of course not. Milstein just found that the goal of Zionism is to establish towns and villages intended for Jews only, and from which Arabs would be excluded. And public officials are constrained, of course, to realize the goals of Zionism.

Supporters of the late Meir Kahane came to demonstrate at Umm al-Fahm and inform its Arab residents that sooner or later they would be expelled from their homes and that Umm al-Fahm would become a Jewish city as they were willing to explain on the radio. The National Police raised a large force to protect the demonsrators and allow them to exercise their democratic right to call for the expulsion of the Arabs. The police's weapons were directed at the protesting residents of Umm al Fahm. Heavy volleys of tear gas and rubber bullets were shot at the Arab residents and the Arab Knesset Members supporting them. Not that the police support racists, God forbid. Of course not. The police just noticed that the residents of Umm al-Fahm were demonstrating without a permit. And the police is constrained, of course, to maintain public order.

Kahane fans also held a conference in the luxurious Ramada Renaissance Hotel in Jerusalem and called for the expulsion of all Arabs from all over the country. The hotel's management is not sympathetic to racists, God forbid. Of course not. The hotel management just consulted its lawyers and found that the Kahanists already signed a valid contract for the event. And respectable business people are constrained, of course, not to violate contracts.

Members of the Knesset Constitutional Committee approved for the second and third readings the Admission Committees Bill, which would enshrine in law the right of state-funded communities, which get government land at next to nothing, to refuse to admit Arabs. Not that the Knesset Members are racists, God forbid. Of course not. They just checked and found that Arabs joining these communities might disrupt their social fabric. And decent Parliamentarians are constrained, of course, to maintain the integrity of the social fabric.

In the coming days Prime Minister Netanyahu is due to announce the appointment of Gilead Arden as the next Ambassador of Israel to the UN. And Arden will not have any difficulty in fulfilling his new role. Of course not. Ambassador Arden, an articulate and experienced person, will find no difficulty at all in rebutting the assertions that Zionism is racist, and showing this as the infamous anti-Semitic calumny that it is.

Catch 44

October 9, 2010

- Hello, is this the Interior Ministry of the State of Israel?

- Yes, sir. How may I help you?

- I wanted to find out about my request for family unification.

- Family reunification? What do you mean?

- You know what family reunification means! I am a Palestinian living in Nablus, my wife is an Israeli citizen who lives in Nazareth. We got married five years ago, and still you do not allow us to live together and start a family.

- Start a family?

- Yes, a family. You know, buy a house, have children, is it not a natural aspiration?

- There are all kinds of opinions about that, depending on the political situation. Never mind about that now. You know you should provide a lot of documents and certificates?

- I gave you all the certificates, months ago. Everything, exactly according to all your laws and regulations. It took me an enormous lot of effort, running around to get everything. What more do you want?

- You know that we have a new law. You must pledge allegiance to Israel as a Jewish and democratic state.

- Okay, okay, I will declare whatever you want. To end this hell I would even declare that the moon is made of green cheese. Well, then, here goes: I hereby solemnly declare my allegiance to Israel as a Jewish and democratic state. OK? Can I now go to Nazareth?

- Wait a minute, sir. Do you understand what you have declared?

- I have declared that Israel is a Jewish state. You have rabbis and a Jewish tradition and Jewish holidays, Passover and Hanukkah and Yom Kippur. Very nice. But how does this concern me and my wife and our home in Nazareth?

- It does, very much so. Perhaps you noticed that you also swore allegiance to Israel as a democracy?

- That certainly does not bother me.

- It might not bother you, but it very much bothers us. We are a democracy. That means that if too many democratic Arabs vote in our democratic elections, it will become difficult to elect a Jewish Knesset which will establish a Jewish government. In short, even without you we have got a bit too many Arabs here, and we don't want any additions. So kindly turn back to Nablus and stop bothering us.

- What is this? You are crooks!

- Sir, you are posing to me a demographic threat. I have a clear principle, never to talk to anyone who threatens me.

When "A" asked the soldiers guarding him why they were not preventing the settlers from putting trees on fire before their eyes, they shouted at him to be quiet.

Water in an Arid Land

October 20, 2010

Then Jacob went on his journey, and came into the land of the people of the east. And he looked, and behold a well in the field, and, lo, there were three flocks of sheep lying by it. For out of that well they watered the flocks, and a great stone was upon the well's mouth. And thither were all the flocks gathered, and they rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the sheep, and put the stone again upon the well's mouth in his place.

And Jacob said unto them, My brethren, whence be ye? And they said, Of Haran are we. And he said unto them, Know ye Laban the son of Nahor? And they said, We know him. And he said unto them, Is he well? And they said, He is well: and, behold, Rachel his daughter cometh with the sheep. And he said, Lo, it is yet high day, neither is it time that the cattle should be gathered together: water ye the sheep, and go and feed them. And they said, We cannot, until all the flocks be gathered together, and till they roll the stone from the well's mouth; then we water the sheep. And while he yet spake with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep; for she kept them. And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother. And Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice, and wept. (Book of Genesis, Chapter 29)

So begins one of the oldest and most well-known love stories in world culture. A story which was originally told in a society of shepherds for whom the raising of herds and watering them was at the center of daily life. A story which may have been often told when shepherds met at the waterhole, and which was eventually written down, and included in a Holy Book, and translated into all the languages of the world. It is still told to all children in Israeli schools (sometimes they hear it already in the kindergarten). A story which is part of the heritage that the Zionist Movement cited when firmly laying claim to the ancestral land of the Jews.

When arriving in this country as a young pioneer, David Ben Gurion tried his hand at being a shepherd, but did not last in that profession for more than a few months. But, there were still shepherds in this country, whose livelihood it had been from time immemorial - a life not so different from those of the shepherds of Jacob and Rachel's time (and perhaps those ancient shepherds are also among the ancestors of the present ones...)

Noah El-Rajabi is such a shepherd, with a herd of two hundred sheep and goats. He is married, and has seven children. They live near the town of Bani Na'im, 17 kilometers from Hebron. They live under the authority of the Israeli Defense Forces, the army which was established by the state which was established by the movement which firmly demanded that a Jewish state be established in the ancient homeland where Jacob and Rachel once grazed their herds.

Last week - just an ordinary Monday, October 11, at 08:00 am – the soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces arrived unannounced at the spot where Noah El-Rajabi was grazing his flock. They destroyed his water cistern and his tent and a small wooden structure Noah used for cooking and storage.

The soldiers also kicked and beat the animals, and one pregnant ewe aborted. Noah's eldest son, 14, tried to protect the sheep. According to the army, he was arrested after assaulting the soldiers.

The Christian Peacemakers Team met Noah in Hebron. He did not know where his son was being held, or where he could get water for his animals. CPTers from Britain and Sweden accompanied Noah in his prolonged running about between three Israeli police stations, finally getting the information that is son was being held at the "Ofer" detention camp. For how long, nobody could or would tell. Nor were the police ready to hear the complaint which Noah tried to lodge about the behavior of the soldiers.

For the time being, Noah's herd is being cared for by his brother, who lives on a nearby hill and whose water cistern is still intact...

Not that the Knesset Members are racists, God forbid. Of course not. They just checked and found that Arabs joining these communities might disrupt their social fabric.

Mystery

October 5, 2010

Unknown people entered yesterday night the village of Beit Fajr, which is surrounded by settlements on all sides. The unknowns reached the village mosque, set it on fire left graffiti in Hebrew about "Revenge" and "exacting a price".

Shaul Goldstein, the elected leader of the settlers in this area, protested angrily the media assumption that settlers are responsible for the arson. "The investigation is still at its the beginning, all options are open. Why are we blamed? This is part of an incitement campaign!"

Indeed, it is also quite possible that the mosque was torched by aliens who arrived during the night in a spaceship from Mars. This possibility, too, should be looked into.

The Burning Report

October 16, 2010

The testimony of "A," a Palestinian farmer from the village of Far'ata telling of what happened to his olive grove yesterday morning, was written down by peace activist David Nir, who spends much of his time monitoring the situation in the Nablus Area.

On the morning of Friday, October 15, "A" and his family were harvesting olives on a plot near the built-up area of Far'ata. At 10.30 he was alerted to smoke rising from his other olive grove, which is near the "Gile'ad's Farm" settler outpost. The olives from the trees in that grove had been stolen by settlers before the Palestinian owners were allowed to visit it, and the settlers had recently started pouring concrete foundations for building a house there.

"A" ran to the spot, accompanied by two other Far'ata residents who also have trees nearby. All three ran on foot, intending to put off the fire. When the settlers saw the Palestinians approaching, one of them ran in their direction – being followed by four soldiers. The soldiers pushed the settler back from

▸ **ISRAEL,** continued on page 12

WIP History

Every month, *WIP* reprints a relevant article from its 20 year history, or a new article on a historical topic. This month, we're reprinting a speech by Peter Bohmer, on the Republican agenda (and the Democrat agenda) in the wake of the 1994 election, as it was printed in the May 1995 *WIP*.

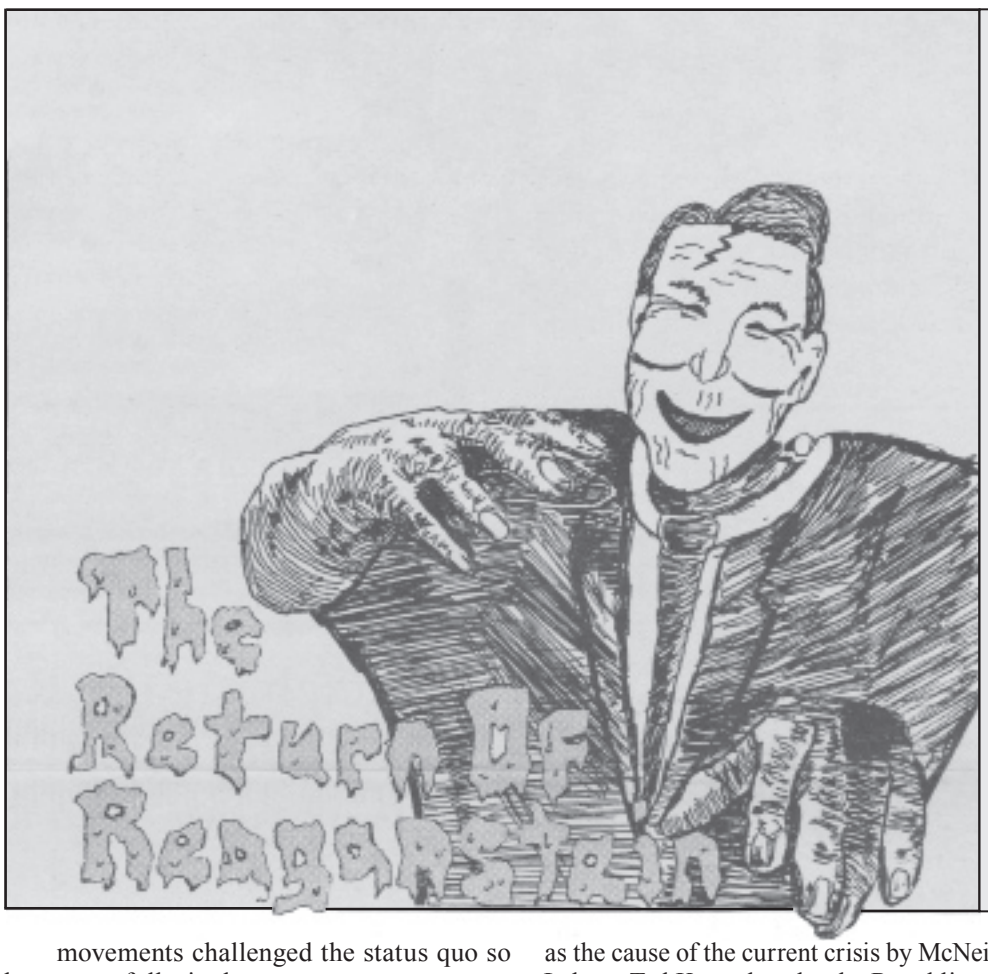
Speech from Olympia demonstration

No Contract ~~with~~ ON America!

By Peter Bohmer
April 15, 1995

Today is a significant day. It is the 99th day of Newt Gingrich's 100-day counter-revolution, his Contract on America.

It is Tax Day, when taxes are due. Much more positive and significant in the long run is our joining together today to march and speak out powerfully to say no to greed and yes to meeting people's needs; to say no to yet more tax breaks for the rich and powerful; to say no to scapegoating those with the least power in this society such as immigrants and the poor. We are here to say we are committed to struggling for much more than the pro-corporate, slightly lesser-of-two-evils program of President Clinton, Governor Lowry and the Democratic Party. We are assembling here today as part of a struggle that will not stop until phrases such as social justice, democracy, health care and housing for all, people before profits, and racial, gender and economic equality are the reality, and not just propaganda – where an injury to one is an injury to all.



Graphic by Pat Tassoni, from the front page of the Dec. 1994 *WIP*

Rush Limbaugh, Randy Tate, Linda Smith, New Gingrich and their many clones in high places have a reactionary vision for the USA. Its program is slickly packaged in the "Contract with America." They believe human virtue is measured by one's wealth. They oppose any regulation or limitations on maximum profit-making and financial speculation, such as the strengthening of unions or raising the minimum wage, establishing a tax system where the wealthy and corporations would pay a fair share, or setting limits on corporate pollution (which, in their eyes, would violate market decision-making).

Newt Gingrich and Robert Dole claim the misnamed "free market" is holier than Easter and God and cannot be interfered with. Of course, they forget the virtue of non-government intervention when it increases their favorite corporation's profits – for example, subsidies for building more prisons, or more and fatter exclusive defense contracts.

Their reactionary vision, which has some popular support, is to return to the so-called stability of the 1950's, a period of unchallenged US global domination, where Blacks knew their place at the back of the bus; where male supremacy was less under attack and women were "less uppity," and abortions were illegal. This was before the civil rights movement and movements of people of color, the student and anti-Vietnam War movements, and movements of women, gays and lesbians, and many other movements challenged the status quo so powerfully, in the streets.

Is Congresswoman Linda Smith's and Newt Gingrich's vision your vision? No! Their attacks on Clinton and Lowry, who they identify with the "disorder and chaos" of the 1960's, are their attempt to roll back the gains of the 1960's and to go back to the sterility and reaction of the 1950's Cold War – the era of "Leave It to Beaver," "Dragnet," and Joe McCarthy. No thanks!

> ***We cannot fight the Contract with America by accepting most of their assumptions, and using much of their rhetoric and their program. Let us instead put forward a bold vision based on global solidarity across borders.***

Their reactionary vision has a certain appeal in a society where incomes have never been so unequal, where the standard of living for the majority has been falling for 20 years, where the so-called American dream of upward mobility is even less true than in the past, where society seems to be falling apart. Rising crime and drugs, people sleeping on the streets and in the parks of Olympia, communities destroyed as corporations constantly move production in search of yet higher profits.

Corporate capitalism and the power of multinational corporations are not targeted as the cause of the current crisis by McNeil-Lehrer, Ted Koppel, or by the Republican/Democrats. How could they be? Who is funding them? What are CBS, and Gannett – the owner of the Olympian – but major corporations themselves? Since the cause of the growing inequality and poverty is kept invisible by them, it is so much easier to blame women on welfare rather than corporate welfare, to blame immigrants and affirmative action as causing unemployment rather than corporate flight. And it's so much easier to blame urban decay on those who live in central cities, rather than on the huge cut-backs in federal aid, the policies of real estate speculators, and corporations seeking even more profits by moving production out of the US to super-exploit workers from Mexico to Indonesia.

Sadly, this is what the Contract with America in Washington, D.C. and in Olympia, Washington, is about – to make Olympia, Washington State, the United States and the world more undemocratic and unequal. Is corporate Newt going to get away with it? No!

Newt's language involves using words and phrases to mean their opposite. "The Personal Responsibility Act" does not mean millionaires paying takes on April 15th – it means further reduction of welfare payments, which have already fallen by 1/2 over the last 20 years. It means kicking people off welfare without providing day care or decent paying jobs or education. It is about scapegoating and stealing from the poor.

Of course, this is not the crime they write about in the "Taking Back Our Streets Act," or its Washington State counterpart, the "Hard Time for Crime Act," which aim to execute and lock up more and more people. This is one way of reducing unemployment – just lock up enough people or put them to death. What about, instead, strengthening the right to unionize and creating meaningful jobs at livable wage?

The name of the "Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act" of the Contract with America, which just passed the U.S. House of Representatives, could have been taken out of Orwell's 1984. This act will reduce taxes for those wealthy and greedy enough to make large amounts of money, not by hard work, but by "capital gains" – buying and selling bonds, stocks, and real estate. Taxes on capital gains will be reduced by more than 1/2. This reduction in taxes to families making more than $200,000 is greater than the entire cost of Aid to Families with Dependent Children.

[Editor's Note: AFDC was a welfare program vital to supporting single-parent families. Around the time of this speech, public assistance programs such as AFDC were under heavy attack by Republicans and Democrats. In 1996, as part of Clinton's welfare "reform," AFDC was extensively cut back, and replaced by the much more restrictive TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) program.]

To fight the Contract on America and the right wing, we need another vision. It cannot be based on putting our hopes in the Democratic Party, who for the most part do not question profits and the right of multinational corporations to pay the lowest wages and least taxes with minimal environmental controls all over the world. That is what NAFTA and GATT are all about. We cannot fight the Contract by accepting most of their assumptions, and using much of their rhetoric and their program. Let us instead put forward a bold vision based on global solidarity across borders where we understand our allies are peasants and workers all over the world – not corporations just because they call themselves American. Let us begin with a vision based on the dignity of all people and the right of all people as human beings to health care and adequate housing, not mansions for a few and the Salvation Army for others. Our vision also includes full employment at livable wages, quality education and childcare for all, reproductive rights, full civil rights for gays and lesbians – where meeting human needs and real democracy are the organizing principles of this society. Let us resist the status quo as we, the people, build a society where children are truly valued, not one where 1/4 of all children and close to 1/2 of Latino, Black and Native American children live in absolute poverty in a country where others live in obscene wealth, where the market is worshipped but more and more human beings are discarded and imprisoned. Let us have a vision and work to make it a reality that is inclusive, that expands affirmative action and does not target immigrants, that targets and challenges corporate capitalism. We need to control capital and multinational corporations; if they want to leave where they are located and move production, they can, but we are taking and keeping their capital so workers and communities can continue to work, and can control production democratically. Unless we stop the power of the multinationals, we will always be on the defensive, accepting their terms of the debate.

Let us be bold as we organize and demonstrate and educate against the Contract with America and build a society where meaningful democracy, respect for diversity, self-determination for all people, the end of poverty and a sustainable environment become the reality. The alternative is a repressive order, nationally and globally with a few wealthy people, a declining comfortable class, and a police state to guard them from the rest of us who become poorer and poorer. We can and have to do better. What we are saying makes sense. Newt and Linda don't.

Dare to struggle, dare to win!

Thank you!

JOIN THE ONE BIG UNION

Join Olympia IWW

The Industrial Workers of the World is a union for all workers, dedicated to organizing on the job, in our industries, and in our communities. We organize to win better conditions today and to build a world without bosses, a world in which production and distribution are organized by workers to meet the needs of the entire population, not just a handful of exploiters.

The Olympia General Membership Branch of the IWW meets every second and fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00pm, at the IWW office upstairs at the corner of 4th & Adams.

Feel free to contact us at olywobs@riseup.net. Also, please pick up a free newspaper from our box on the corner of 4th and Washington downtown!

Understanding and responding to the global economic crisis

Part 2

by Peter Bohmer

Peter Bohmer, a faculty member in Economics and Political Economy at The Evergreen State College, originally presented this paper in Thessaloniki, Greece, September 8, 2010 at the A-Fest, Festival of the Anti-Authoritarians.

In part 1, Bohmer went into the history of neo-liberalism and the historical roots of the economic crisis we face today. You can read Part 1 on the October 2010 page at www.olywip.org.

The growth of finance and financial speculation and of all forms of debt, consumer, government, non-financial corporate and financial sector, is a necessary result of global neoliberalism. Financial deregulation and the end of controls on capital moving across borders created conditions where banks and other financial institutions could make huge amounts of money by buying and selling pieces of paper. These securities and bonds were created, bought, and sold amongst financial institutions, who borrowed money for short periods of time in the expectation of high returns from the mortgages, auto loans, credit card and commercial debt, and high interest loans that backed them up. Many of these bonds, sometimes called collateralized debt or collateralized mortgage obligations, often originated in the United States, but were later bought by banks and other financial institutions all over the world.

In the United States, this unsustainable financialization could only last as long as housing prices continued to rise. From 1995 to 2006, housing prices rose far more than family incomes or prices of other goods or rents. It was an unsustainable housing bubble that burst (as all bubbles do) when housing prices began to slide downward in 2006 and then dropped even faster from 2007 to 2009. They are still falling in most housing markets, although more slowly. This economic expansion was based on rapidly-rising housing prices and people using the rising value of their houses to pay for the increasing interest payments on their houses and other consumption expenses. At first, the inability of households in the United States to make monthly housing payments were primarily categorized in what was known as sub-prime mortgages: mortgages that charged much higher than normal interest rates, often with low teaser rates to fool the buyer. These sub-prime mortgages were extended disproportionately to low income people, especially working class blacks and Latinos. Non-payment on these mortgages and foreclosures increased rapidly as unemployment rates more than doubled from late 2007 through 2009. Foreclosures spread rapidly to include holders of regular mortgages; the non-payment of mortgages caused the holders of these mortgages, mainly banks and, even more significantly, the holder of the bonds that were backed up by mortgages to take big losses or in some cases go bankrupt, e.g., Lehman Brothers in 2008. Non-payment on an increased number of mortgages reduced the revenues these financial institutions received, cutting their profits. More significantly, the value of these mortgage-backed securities collapsed as financial institutions such as Bear-Stearns had to sell these securities that nobody now wanted. When the short-term loans they had made to purchase these securities became due, they were unable to get new loans as credit became frozen and they had to sell the mortgaged-back securities to pay the loans they could not roll over. Prices of these collateralized securities collapsed and a growing number of financial institutions became insolvent as their assets were worth less than what they owed.

Moreover, these securities had been sold to financial institutions all over the world contributing to a global financial crisis. Big banks of other countries had followed similar policies to the United States of leveraging their capital, buying risky assets on more and more borrowed money. The subsequent drying up of credit caused the decline of production and income far beyond the financial sector.

As these financial institutions moved closer and closer to bankruptcy, many of them were loaned money or had their near worthless securities purchased by their central banks; they were bailed out. In countries that are members of the European Union (EU) these securities were also purchased by the European Central bank. This may have saved the private banks but, so far, little of this money has been lent out by these financial institutions in ways that will stimulate production and employment. The current financial reforms and regulation are inadequate and insufficient to deal with future financial speculation or to guarantee the extension of credit to spur production. A far better solution would have been, and still is, to have local and national governments nationalize these failing banks, and have them managed by community and labor groups who would extend credit, not to maximize profits for their stockholders, but rather to further employment and living wage jobs, and to stimulate socially useful production and a more environmentally sustainable economy.

A central aspect of neoliberalism is the weakening of the power of working people while increasing the power of capital, particularly financial capital.

Other major and interrelated causes of the current crisis has been the reduced income going to labor, the growing inequality in income and wealth, the growing job insecurity, and falling real wages for more than 30 years. A central aspect of neoliberalism is the weakening of the power of working people while increasing the power of capital, particularly financial capital. Productivity and profits have increased substantially since the 1970's but, in general, the growth of real wages has been much smaller; in the United States wages have stagnated and declined for many. U.S. wages have risen less than prices since 2000. Working class households in the U.S., in order to maintain their consumption in a period of declining purchasing power, have increased their borrowing and consumer debt to maintain their standard of living. Growing medical expenses have also been a major cause of increased borrowing and bankruptcy. Much of this consumption was financed by households borrowing on the values of their housing, what is called refinancing. So growing consumer debt spurred the economic expansion but also has made the economy far more likely to suffer a more severe recession/depression once people could not pay their debts. This caused a snowballing effect. It has also caused millions of people to owe more on their houses than the value of their houses as prices declined an average of 30% over the last four years.

The current economic crisis continues with high unemployment on a global scale, which is likely to worsen in many countries in the foreseeable future. Cuts in government spending in a period of recession/depression in order to reduce the government deficit, as was practiced in the early 1930's by the United States and Britain, did not make the deficit smaller then or now as tax revenues fell further because of the decreasing level of production and income. It also has increased unemployment and the severity of the depression. It was exactly the wrong policy then, and it's exactly the wrong policy now.

John Maynard Keynes, certainly not a radical, but a proponent of some important and worthwhile ideas, taught economists and politicians alike that their knee-jerk reaction to cut spending when tax revenues fall due to recession is exactly backwards. And yet this is what Germany and England are doing. This is what the European Commission and the European Central Bank are forcing Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece, and Spain to do. This is what governments of Eastern European countries are doing in an attempt to spruce up their resumes as they get ready to apply for admission into the Euro zone. This is what the IMF is pressuring third world governments to do and what it has pressured them to do for the last 30 years. And this is the road that deficit mania has now sent the United States and Japan down as well. Those with power are doing this to destroy what remains of the social welfare state; they are doing this to further the neoliberal assault on workers and their communities, and to create a neoliberal dystopia no matter what the human costs. Of course, this must be resisted and stopped.

TO BE CONCLUDED IN THE DECEMBER *WORKS IN PROGRESS*

▸ **ISRAEL,** continued from page 10

the three Palestiniand but did not detain him. It was the Palestinians who were detained, taken by the soldiers away from the burning trees and kept directly under the sun. (The temperature was about 37 degrees Celsius, and "A" eventually required medical treatment for dehydration symptoms.)

While detained by the soldiers, the Palestinians saw the same settler moving between the different plots and personally setting the trees on fire, without interruption from the many soldiers who were nearby and witnessed the scene.. When "A" asked the soldiers guarding him why they were not preventing the settlers from putting trees on fire before their eyes, they shouted at him to be quiet. When he said he would complain about their helping the settlers to burn the trees they said they would testify that it was him who had set the fire.

Around 13:30, two of the four soldiers were called to another place. The three Palestinians took advantage of the remaining soldiers' inattentiveness and escaped back to Far'ata, as they were sure the soldiers intended to take them into detention.

Only after hours of burning did the army allow fire trucks to arrive, but it was too late. When TV crews from Israeli, Palestinian and European stations arrived, the soldiers rushed them away to a location from which the fire was not visible.

"A" estimates that the fire consumed more than a hundred acres of olive groves with more than 3000 trees, most of which belong to farmers from the nearby village of Tel. When Tel villagers riding donkeys tried to reach the spot, the settlers took away their donkeys and the army chased them away.

When representatives of the Palestinian Authority arrived, the soldiers expelled them, too.

All throughout the fire, there were about 40 settlers running about, as were many policemen and some 150 soldiers. The settlers were demonstratively friendly with the "security forces'" who made no attempt to stop them from continuing to put trees on fire.

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Olympia Food Co-op Board Candidates

STATEMENT FROM OLYMPIA BDS:

This year's Co-op board election is one of the most important in the Co-op's history. There are several great candidates running for the board. At the same time, opponents of the Co-op's boycott policy are hoping to fill the open seats with single-issue candidates with the sole agenda of rescinding the boycott.

We in Olympia BDS are concerned with the future well-being of our Co-op. We see the boycott as one element of many that compose the strong principles upon which the Co-op serves the community.

There are several important issues beyond the boycott. This includes the direction of the Co-op expansion, building the management and decision-making structure, increasing sustainability, building our local economy and reaching out to our diverse community. Although many candidates would fit well on the board, we had to narrow it down to five. It took several days to come to agreement, but we based our selection on the following criteria:

1. Does the candidate have the Co-op's best interests in mind?
2. Is the candidate well qualified in terms of skills and experiences to be on the Olympia Food Co-op's board?
3. Does the candidate have something unique to contribute to the Co-op?

OLYMPIA BDS ENDORSEMENTS

Reprinted from olympiabds.org

Erin Genia

Erin Genia's role as treasurer for Amnesty International Puget Sound demonstrates both her desire for social justice as a community organizer and her experience in budgeting and fundraising. She is also a low-income mother of three and a recipient of a Master of Public Adminstration (MPA). As a member of the Sisseton-Wapheton Dakota Oyate, she will be the only person of color in a board that is otherwise all-white. Her experience, awareness, and intent to work for local under-served communities are true assets for the Co-op.

John Regan

John Regan brings a diversity of experiences in several fields, perhaps the most unique being his work with a 43-year-old food co-op in Barquisimeto, Venezuela. He has also been involved in other cooperatives, in local government, in community revitalization projects, and he has been a conscientious small business owner for thirty years with a Master in Business Administration (MBA).

Rochelle Gause

As the former Kitchen Garden Project coordinator for GRuB (Garden-Raised Bounty), Rochelle Gause has hands-on experience in food justice, local farming, and connecting with low-income communities. Add to that her MES (Master of Environmental Studies) and a motivation for sustainability through local production and reaching out to diverse sectors of the community, and you have a candidate who was made for the Co-op board.

TJ Johnson

As one of the most principled city councilmembers to have served Olympia, TJ Johnson brings a wealth of experience, skills, and abilities to the board. His three years of working as the Expansion Coordinator for the Co-op demonstrates his commitment to this important institution. As part of Sustainable South Sound, TJ is dedicated to the environmental health and local economy of our community.

Eric Mapes

A Co-op volunteer since 1995, Eric Mapes is currently on the Co-op's Ecological Planning Committee, which seeks to reduce the Co-op's ecological impact and make the Co-op operation more sustainable and environmentally friendly. His years living overseas and his ongoing work with the Immigrant Family Advocacy Project and the Street Youth Legal Advocates of Washington give him the experience and awareness for serving marginalized populations.

Works In Progress **generally does not make endorsements regarding elections, even in cases where individual contributors submit articles that clearly promote or discredit active candidates.**

We respect the concern that BDS supporters have raised that BDS opponents put forward a slate of exactly five candidates for five positions in an organized effort to maximize their chances of being elected to the Co-op Board. We understand the strategy of responding with an endorsement of five candidates for the positions up for election. However, in the process, very strong candidates were excluded from endorsement, including a sitting Board member who helped institute the boycott in the first place. Another valid concern is that, by voting solely on the endorsements of one organization, other important aspects of food justice and progressive food politics could potentially be sidelined.

WIP **wishes to present you with Olympia BDS' preferred slate of candidates and with other worthy candidates, so you can make an informed decision for yourself.**

VICS
PIZZERIA
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OTHER WORTHY CANDIDATES

Suzanne Shafer

Not to be confused with Susan Schaeffer, who has since withdrawn

Suzanne Shafer has been a productive member of the Board of Directors for two years. She voted to approve the boycott of Israeli products in July, and has routinely defended that decision since.

If that's not enough, when asked what she viewed as the Co-op's strengths, Shafer had this to say: "I think our unique strengths are our mission and our organizational structure. The Co-op works on the principles of collaboration and consensus whenever possible. We have a valuable and successful social experiment and I hope to contribute to continuing and improving it. Providing good food in the context of environmental responsibility, sustainability, fair trade and social justice is our Co-op's mission. There are loads of places to just buy food, but only one grocery store with these values. It feels crucial to me that we keep that choice alive and keep the Co-op vital and strong."

Karen Bray

Of the boycott, Karen Bray had this to say: "I first learned of the Olympia Co-op's boycott of Israeli goods via CBC radio while camping in the Yukon Territory. My first reaction was surprise that it was international news. After all the Co-op has a history of not selling products in response to boycotts for a variety of reasons. That is why many of us shop at the Co-op. They do our homework for us so we can be assured we are supporting a just and sustainable world while providing nutritious food for our families. However when I returned home at the end of August, I soon became aware of the deep division this action had caused."

When asked how the boycott relates to the Co-op's mission statement, Bray said: "I lived and worked in the Middle East for five years in the mid 80's. I am deeply aware of the frustration and suffering of both Jews and Palestinians. As a member of the Anglican community, I have great respect for Archbishop Desmond Tutu and his support of this boycott. I think it is an appropriate response to our mission statement."

About the United Farm Workers boycott and the divestment campaign against apartheid South Africa, Bray said "They were effective and are non-violent ways of producing tangible results."

Regarding issues other than the boycott, Bray has said food security has been of great concern to her, adding: "I think the Olympia Food Co-op should play a greater role in providing good food to more people. We need to work towards more food being grown locally and to provide more education on food choices."

Kim Henderson

Kim Henderson's candidacy has been endorsed by TJ Johnson, but she has not taken an open position on the boycott. When asked how the Co-op's mission statement relates to the boycott, she answered: "As a Co-op Board member I will use the mission statement and bylaws to guide my decisions. I was not involved in the Israeli boycott decision and don't know enough about it to answer that question." Henderson has expressed interest in the third store expansion program.

CANDIDATES TO AVOID

Olympia BDS strongly believes four of the remaining candidates are running strictly in the hopes of overturning the boycott; these are **Linda Sternhill Davis, Kent Davis, Andrea Lipper, and Susan Trinin**. Some of them have made their positions against the boycott very clear, while others have been more coy. However, each has been found to be close associates with prominent anti-boycott and pro-Israel organizers, or to have expressed starkly Zionist viewpoints. (A fifth such candidate, Susan Schaeffer, has since withdrawn.) For more on these candidates, go to nextyearinalquds.blogspot.com.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND FOR UPDATES, GO TO WWW.OLYMPIABDS.ORG AND NEXTYEARINALQUDS.BLOGSPOT.COM

Help wanted: Computer programmers interested in developing website: "wikivoter.info"

by Mike Pelly

In the past 10-15 years our society has embraced using the computer as a tool for so many tasks, from shopping to searching for work, housing, dating... you name it. One area where computers have been used *against* us and not for us is in our election process. (With Diebold, for instance.) It is time we start using computers to democratize our election process; this is one idea on how we can.

www.wikivoter.info would be an interactive website that any voter can visit online to get better informed on candidates and ballot measures up for vote on election day.

The content found at wikivoter.info would be supplied by a number of sources. It could be provided by an individual candidate's campaign office. It could also be from the local election officials in the same way and format as the voter's pamphlet is written. Most importantly this content can be contributed in a forum by individuals in the community in a way similar to how letters are written to the editorial page of the local newspaper, but instead as a web forum.

The biggest problem we face with our current election system is that candidates with the best name recognition are the ones who usually get the most votes, and getting high name recognition usually means spending a lot of money on television and radio advertisements. The candidates and ballot measures with the most money backing them are often the ones with the least interests of their constituents in mind. Candidates usually need to pay back their deep-pocket backers with legislation favorable to those backers' interests, and counter to their constituents' best interests, in order to get re-elected. Ask most politicians what their most important job is and the honest answer will be, "To get re-elected."

Voters are, for the most part, interested in electing representatives with their best interests in mind. But it's often hard sifting through where candidates stand on issues when getting deluged with TV and radio ads right before election day. We have such little time to make qualified choices, and frequently little time to get out and vote. A big problem we have with our election system is that Election Day is not held on a holiday or over a couple days like in many other countries.

wikivoter.info would be one way to address the problem of getting voters adequately informed prior to casting their votes. This would be done by allowing voters to access online information, anywhere in the USA simply by typing in their zip code or the address they are registered to vote at. In their leisure, voters could read about all the candidates and ballot measures beckoning their vote, and make better decisions, free of all the hype and high priced glitzy media adds.

Most importantly, voters could also contribute to the content of wikivoter.info by posting testimonials about ballot measures or candidates they are in favor of or against. This forum would be very similar to the 'Letters to the Editor' section of the daily newspaper. Like the newspaper, contributors would be required to sign their letters and register beforehand in order to contribute, just as they are on Internet forums or groups. And like Wikipedia, all letters could be traced back to their point of origin so underhanded smear campaigns will prove difficult to pull off with wikivoter.info.

This website would have the effect of both 'Letters to the Editor' as well as a lawn sign. When placing a lawn sign on your front lawn, friends passing by and reading the sign can get a better idea of your favored candidates. Your neighbors might gain a little better idea about where a given candidate stands by seeing that candidate's sign on your lawn.

The concept would go something like this: I am a person who takes my voting very seriously and believe worthy candidates deserve my vote, but my busy schedule limits how much time I have to read up on issues throughout the year. Now, before I realize it, I receive my voter's pamphlet in the mail and realize I am expected to be voting very soon. I start by reading through the pamphlet and try to get as informed as possible, but I'm frustrated by how little I get from the pamphlet. I then go on line to www.wikivoter.info and type in my postal zip code. The website takes me to another page that lists all the ballot measures and offices I will be expected to vote on. I read down the page; I've already decided on who my Presidential choice is, so I skip that section. I am confused about some of the other seats up for election so I click onto those positions, starting with the local judges I know nothing about. One position has three judges running, so I read what the voters pamphlet says about each judge and I'm still not sure. I then read about what individuals in my community have said about these judges in their own words. One testimony is from someone I know who is very civic-minded and known for her progressive and environmental stand on many issues. This person writes favorably about a particular judge so I am inclined to vote for this judge who otherwise is unknown to me. Another judge has a testimony from another member of my community I often find myself at odds with politically, so unfortunately for this judge I likely will not be voting for him. This is one example of how wikivoter.info could work to help voters become more informed and powerful as voters.

Voters could also contribute to the content of wikivoter.info by posting testimonials about ballot measures or candidates. This forum would be very similar to the 'Letters to the Editor' section of the daily newspaper.

I can see there will be the need to place some limits on how this website is used in order to keep it functional. One limit I'd suggest is that wording should be limited to about 200-250 words so people can't get too long-winded. Another limit might be placing a lock on the website's content a few days prior to Election Day, so that no one can go in there the night before Election Day and vandalize the site or slander the candidates–something like what former Pres. Bush advisor Karl Rove might have tried doing.

As far as building the site, it seems like it could be a blend of what Wikipedia has built along with features of some of the Internet forums that are out there. For building content it would be good to outreach to the offices of Secretary of State of all 50 states, local election boards, as well as organizations like The League of Women Voters, MoveOn.Org, ProjectVoteSmart.org and other organizations already working to improve our election system.

To pay for building and staffing the website advertisements not involving our electoral system might be okay, but this could be tricky and could put the project into a vulnerable position at times, so donations might be the way to go.

I currently own the domain name www.wikivoter.info, but I would be extremely happy to make it available for free, to any person(s) or non-profit organization(s) prepared to run with it. This is an idea that needs to grow legs and become a reality. I would be very interested in being a part of making it happen.

Mike Pelly, Olympia, Washington
www.OlympiaGreenFuels.com

▸ **PORT,** continued from page 1

countable [under Nuremberg].

"I find it absurd (that) the question right now, with everything that we know, is not 'should we continue to be complicit?' The Council's main concern, instead of the legality of sustaining the Department of Defense, is 'who's going to pay the city to pay our police to stop the civil protests that serve to uphold international law?'"

Councilperson Rhenda Strub

Councilperson Strub followed Patty Imani with her personal story, a history of generations of military service and her personal activism including opposition to the Iraq War. Here are some quotes from Ms. Strub:

"I have three nephews who have served a combined ten tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. I have a daughter on active duty – she's a doctor in the Navy. And she has been told this week that she will deploy to Afghanistan to the battle front as soon as her nursing baby is one year old. They would have deployed her already, but they have a compassion exemption for nursing moms. My family has paid the price to secure our freedom.

"And I am a great respecter of peace. I have worked for peace all my life. No one feels the pain of an unjust war more than the family of the patriot who signed up to protect our freedom, and are being ill-used by our elected leaders. I have walked the line between serving my country in the way that my family has, and protesting for peace when I felt my elected leaders were misusing the trust we gave them.

"My personal opinion about this issue is that our police should not be used, period. It's not a question of who pays – I don't want our police to be used. I don't think that's the reason we have police. When our police are used to support a military function, they are not policing my neighborhood – or yours. We don't have a really deep roster of police that we can afford to gear up to provide security for the port and still provide security for the City. We were caught off guard with the first shipment. We didn't know that there would be so much agony in the street. Ms. Imani is mistaken when she says that our police took orders from the Department of Defense. They did not.

Larry Mosqueda of OMJP

Professor Mosqueda gave an overview on the duty to disobey illegal orders, and the duty to resist illegal wars, as a fundamental piece of international law, which the United States designed at the end of World War II. Here are some quotes from Professor Mosqueda:

"The citizens of our area have done a great service for us as they have made the conduct and continuation of the wars a local and national issue." - Larry Mosqueda

"The first point to understand is that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are illegal. This has been well documented by those who have studied these wars for more than eight years now. [The invasion of Iraq], in addition to being bad policy as a war of aggression, was built on the lies that Iraq had Weapons of Mass Destruction or that Iraq was complicit in 9/11 - lies that even George Bush does not believe anymore. The war in Iraq has conclusively been demonstrated to be an **illegal** war built on the false premises and lies from the Bush administration. Eight years ago, some could argue that this might be a debatable assertion; by 2010 it should be accepted as fact.

"I wrote an article, 'A Duty to Disobey All Illegal Orders,' on February 26, 2003 which pointed out that the upcoming Bush/U.S. war in Iraq did not meet any criteria for a legal or "just" war, and that the U.S. military had an affirmative obligation to disobey illegal orders under the oath taken at the time of induction and under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. [Editor's note: Please read the article at www.counterpunch.org/mosqueda02272003.html .] This article has been reprinted on the web and elsewhere many times. In addition to the sources I cited in the article, many prominent scholars, lawyers and others have added significant research on the illegality of the U.S. war in Iraq. At some unguarded moments, even those who aided in this criminal war planning have admitted that the war was illegal. [Editor's note: See the 2003 admission by Richard Perle, a member of the Defense Policy Board, at www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2003/nov/20/usa.iraq1 .]

"The war in Afghanistan is equally illegal, as pointed out by many international lawyers, scholars and other prominent authors. As Marjorie Cohn, President of the National Lawyers Guild, has stated:

The invasion of Afghanistan was not legitimate self-defense under article 51 of the [U.N.] charter because the attacks on Sept. 11 were criminal attacks, not 'armed attacks' by another country. Afghanistan did not attack the United States. In fact, 15 of the 19 hijackers came from Saudi Arabia. Furthermore, there was not an imminent threat of an armed attack on the United States after Sept. 11, or Bush would not have waited three weeks before initiating his October 2001 bombing campaign. The necessity for self-defense must be 'instant, overwhelming, leaving no choice of means, and no moment for deliberation.' This classic principle of self-defense in international law has been affirmed by the Nuremberg Tribunal and the U.N. General Assembly.

"The citizens of our area have done a great service for us as they have made the conduct and continuation of the wars a local and national issue. An illegal war must be stopped, not slowed down. In addition to having a right to protest and resist the flawed foreign policy of these illegal wars of aggression, the citizens of Olympia and elsewhere have a *right* and an *obligation* to resist under international and domestic law.

"At the last OMJP event [like this] in 2005, where Port Commissioner Van Schoorl came, he actually said; 'I don't know if the war is illegal or not.' Well, to me' if a public official says 'I don't know if the war is legal or not,' he should find out if it's illegal to participate in it.

"I have a specific suggestion. I suggest there should be a forum, not a two hour forum but maybe a two day forum, to help the Port and the City of Olympia determine whether the war is legal or not. I am sure OMJP can help to facilitate that – we will try to get people like Daniel Ellsberg, Richard Falk, Francis Boyle and a bunch of other people who can participate – and we can try to get Richard Perle, who I believe thinks the war is legal, and then see who is more accurate or not."

This coverage was compiled by Drew Hendricks, Brendan Funtek and Mike Coday.

November bits and bites

by Mike Coday

Mike rants and blogs at www.theleftcoaster.com when time allows.

Trouble in the Land of the Free

• Eight Fresno police officers were placed on paid administrative leave after they responded to the home of Rod Fiorini and fired 63 rounds when Fiorini raised a weapon in the direction of officers. Fiorini was hit by an undisclosed number of rounds and died. Fiorini fired no shots at the officers and toxicity reports indicate his blood alcohol was three times the legal limit for driving, but there is no alcohol limit for exercise of second amendment rights. Shannon Handy with ABC 30 reports Fiorini's home was riddled with bullet holes and that police rounds also struck a parked vehicle and a neighbor's home. Public Record Requests indicate Fresno PD has 27 officers with repeat civilian shootings from 2002 to 2009. 25 of these officers remain on duty. Search for the story at http://abclocal.go.com/kfsn

• *USA Today* ran a piece on October 15th about the chilling effect that citizens' videos might have on effective policing. Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting says, "Hey, chill this." Visit www.fair.org if you want details on what is wrong with mainstream media and why the first amendment right to capture history with still photos and video is critical to democracy.

• *There be monsters…* The family of Cameron Todd Willingham continues their legal fight to clear his name, a right guaranteed by law in Texas, even if one is dead. Willingham was convicted of the 1991 arson fire at his home where his three daughters died. He was executed in 2004. The arson science used at trial is described as junk science by nine fire experts led by Dr. Gerald Hurst. Texas Governor Rick Perry who was provided with a report from the experts prior to Willingham's execution failed to stop the execution has called Willingham "an absolute monster who killed his own kids." Governor Perry might want to look in the mirror and search for monsters. www.innocenceproject.org for heartbreaking coverage of this story.

Austerity News from Old Europe

• The Conservative administration of Great Britain cut off child benefit payments to the well-to-do to help balance their budget. Let the wailing begin. The Guardian has coverage at www.guardian.co.uk

• Cameron and the Brits also decided austerity would have to include the military and came up with plans to reduce troop strength by 17K, to stop purchase of a fleet of jet fighters and to retire an aging aircraft carrier. The austerity movement is still the economics of the great depression in an era that demands Keynesian spending, but shifting away from military spending has appeal. Search the Associated Press and Yahoo news for this story.

• Economist Joseph Stiglitz joins economist Paul Krugman warning that austerity is exactly the wrong response to the current economic downturn and will prolong or deepen the economic crisis. What do they know? Hmm… well, they both won Nobel Prize for their work in Economics. The *Telegraph* has the story at www.telegraph.co.uk

Politically Incorrect News Industry News

• CNN fired anchor Rick Sanchez this past month. Sanchez has a history of challenging the racism he sees in the media, but he may have crossed the line with his apparent anti-Jewish comments about Jon Stewart and others like Stewart who run the media. Sanchez may be hoping for a job at Fox News in the near future. I think Sanchez might have chosen his racist comments more carefully to assure the Fox job… because…

• NPR talking head Juan Williams became former NPR talking head with his racist comments on the Bill O'Reilly show about his fear of sharing airplanes with folks in Muslim attire. Mr. Williams has now been hired at Fox. That didn't take long.

Health News and the Wars

• Traumatic brain injuries are the trademark injury for veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. It is estimated that hundreds of thousands of US troops have now qualified for single payer health insurance from the Veterans Administration health care system because of head injuries.

• The head injuries of the "deciders" who insisted on these wars of aggression, these crimes against humanity remain an undiagnosed rumor.

• Dick Cheney is also entitled to lifetime health benefits on the tax payer dime but does not have to wait in line at a VA hospital; he gets CheneyCare. Cheney now lives with a mechanical heart. He has no heartbeat or discernible heart function, which may be an affirmative defense against war crime prosecution.

• The National Institute of Mental Health has calculated that suicide deaths may eventually surpass combat deaths for veterans of the Iraq and Aghanistan wars. Read more if you can bear it at www.medpagetoday.com

Extinction Roll Call

• An epidemic of bee colony collapse that has been devastating US bee hives for the past few years is reported to have been traced to a combination attack of a fungus and a virus that can infect a hive in cold, humid conditions. The combination is deadly to hives and was identified through the application of military software applications designed to identify unknown biological pathogens in battlefield conditions. For that story and other light reading of peer-reviewed science go to *PloS One* at www.plosone.org

• Katherine Eban at OpEdNews calls foul on the military software, fungus, virus cover story of bee colony collapse and says the underlying weakness of bee colonies is more likely related to exposure to a class of neurotoxin pesticides called neonicotinoids. Bayer Crop Science, manufacturer of the neurotoxins, has been fighting off beekeepers and regulators over the impact of the chemicals for years. Read all about it at www.opednews.com – The Best Science Money Can Buy.

• Researchers at the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew have determined that one-fifth of the world's plant species are at risk for extinction. Loss of habitat appears to be the primary risk for extinction as wild areas are converted to agricultural use. (Like native forest to pasture or biomass fuel acreage?) The Beeb has coverage at www.bbc.co.uk/news. Doesn't this mean the glass is four-fifths full?

• A toxic red sludge spill from the chemical waste reservoir of an industrial plant in Hungary is reported to have extinguished all life in the Marcal River that feeds into the Danube. The toxic alkalinity of the spill is being diluted as it heads downstream. The Beeb Europe has coverage.

• Dilution news from the Gulf Coast: Kelp-hugging scientists from Oregon State University have found a 40 fold increase in cancer-causing polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in the waters off the Louisianna Coast during the BP oil spill. "It's an incredibly huge jump in concentration in a natural environment," said Kim Anderson, an OSU environmental toxicology professor. www.latimes.com to read more. One way to deal with the PR fallout of oily beaches like the ones that followed the Exxon Valdez oil spill is to dump huge amounts of dispersants into the natural environment to break up the oily mess. The chemicals used to break up the oily mess are fairly toxic in their own right, but they are amazingly effective at preventing high impact pollution photography. Aromatic? Doesn't that means smells good? Dahr Jamail and Erika Blumenfeld are covering this story in heroic fashion. Read and view their work at http://pacificfreepress.com and elsewhere in the minorstream press.

• Want to know more about the chemical dispersants? Google Corexit or visit Source Watch at www.sourcewatch.org for the undiluted truth about Corexit.

I think we jumped to Crimes of Capitalism News

• The Cleveland *Plain Dealer* has an absolutely amazing story about Michael and Pamela Negrea. They never missed a payment or even paid late on their home and yet GMAC has repeatedly filed for foreclosure on the property. Even after the Negreas won a lawsuit against GMAC and forced GMAC to pay $200,000 for the breach of contract, fraud and violations of the fair credit act. That ought to settle things, right? Nope, GMAC filed foreclosure action again in August 2009 after losing the lawsuit. Read it at blog.cleveland.com/pdextra. Meanwhile…

• The *NY Times* carried a couple of stories of capitalism run amok on Oct. 14. The first story ran down the practice at the big mortgage/foreclosure companies of hiring "Burger King" kids to process their foreclosure paperwork. The resulting paperwork contains lots of completely meaningless affidavits in support of foreclosures, a lot of instances of perjury as agents swore to "facts" they had no reasonable knowledge of, and a whiff of fraud from the boardroom that will be exceedingly difficult to prosecute.

• The *Times* ran a story the same day about a "crime ring" that created fake medical clinics and identity-theft "patients" to bilk Medicare out of $35 million dollars. Dozens of people have been charged. The truth is these "criminals" are pikers compared to the foreclosure criminal ring, but the news framing reflects ruling class sensibilities regarding what is criminal and what is simply unsavory business practice. Can you say TARP funds? I knew you could. Search Slatest at www.slatest.slate.com if you want to read more.

• A commission set up by President Obama reported last month that the administrations to review the White House response to the BP oilwell disaster was "either not fully competent" or "was not fully candid with the American people about the scope of the problem" www.washingtonpost.com if you need to know the details and…

• The Obama administration responded to the report a week later by lifting the ban on deep-water drilling in the Gulf. Washington Post for that story as well. It's both unbelievable and true. Let's move on to energy news.

New from On and Off the Grid

• The Sierra Club continues to push for a coal-free Washington through the closing or conversion of the Centralia Coal Plant. The Coal Plant creates about 10% of the greenhouse gas output of the entire State at 10 million metric tons of carbon dioxide per year. The Sierra Club's Beyond Coal goal is admirable, but maybe they ought to watch for smokestacks on the horizon by looking at the projected carbon dioxide output of…

• Yep, BIOMASS. What a disaster the new biomass industry will be for the planet. Estimated carbon dioxide output of the biomass plants proposed for the Olympic Peninsula? 2.75 million tons of carbon dioxide per year. Taking existing coal off-line as you allow new biomass to come on-line makes no sense to me. Google "no biomass" for more information.

• Well, do we have an option instead biomass or coal burning power plants? Yes, we do. How about converting the roads in the US to be both roads and solar energy power grid? You have to see this to believe it. Watch the video at www.solarroadways.com/intro.shtml. Cost of installing this sytem? About 5 billion dollars. For perspective, that's 10% of the cost of the Iraq war for next year. That's 51 billion dollars for this war that we are told ended recently. I vote "yes" on solar roads, "no" on biomass burns, "no" on more bucks for war… and we are on to voting news.

Black Box Voting and Election News

• As if the flood of unlimited Citizens United campaign dollars weren't enough to damage our election process, lots of votes are being counted on computerized systems with little or no paper trail. Election day salute to the District of Columbia for providing a test of the system they proposed to use to allow overseas and military voters to download and return absentee ballots. Given only three days notice that they would have the chance to test the system security, a team of computer scientists from the University of Michigan was able to hack the system in 36 hours and were able to change all of the votes cast and leave the University fight song as a calling card. Team Leader J. Alex Halderman posted about the project on Oct. 5 at www.freedom-to-tinker.com. The Washington Post covered the story on Oct. 19.

• The real election in Olympia is happening at the Olympia Food Co-op. The election for the board continues through mid November. Opponents of the Co-op's boycott decision regarding Israeli products made in the occupied territories have fielded five candidates for five positions. The anti-bds campaign is no longer interested in a straight up or down vote on the boycott matter, which they would not win, and have moved on to trying to load the Co-op board with a group that will reverse the brave decision made in July. If you look hard in this issue somewhere, you may be able to locate some information about that election.

I don't think it qualifies as good news, but the *Seattle Times* reported on Oct. 14 that the Seattle Firearms Review Board has reached an initial determination that the police shooting death of First Nation woodcarver John T. Williams was not justified. Police Officer Ian Burk, the shooter, was ordered to surrender his badge and weapon and remains on routine paid leave. Condolences again to our First Nation cousins.

Also, a sincere apology to Elliot Stoller. *Works In Progress* failed to credit Elliot for his moving photos in our Williams story coverage in September. Thanks for your work, Elliot.

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▸ **PLOWSHARES,** continued from page 1

Crane has tremendous commitment and focus; she's written many of the Plowshares updates which cite the illegality of SWFPac, the nuclear weapons storage facility at Bangor. Crane, also mother and grandmother, points out "these weapons are our responsibility. They were made with our tax dollars, and will be used in our name."

Defendant Fr. Steve Kelly is a man who by religious practice will not rise before a judge who enters a courtroom. At the Oct. 8 arraignment, when presented with the conditions of release on his own recognizance, Kelly stated, "I cannot sign to any of these conditions," adding that he followed a higher law than represented by the document. Chief Magistrate Judge Karen Strombom, once understanding this defendant was actually serious about his refusal to sign the legal document, quickly revised the agreement to a simple hand written line acknowledging he'd received the document only; Kelly, and the other defendants in turn, remain unconditionally free by their own recognizance in this time leading up to trial. After learning that Fr. Kelly had spent six years imprisoned for anti-war activities, I was struck by the strength he presented before the court.

My connection to the Plowshares activists is through Bix, my favorite Tacoman. I was arrested along with Fr. Bill Bichsel and 17 others at Bangor in August of 2005, taking part in a Ground Zero action outside the base, but the first time I spent any real time talking with Fr Bill was at an annual Tacoma march calling for the freedom of American Indian Movement member and political prisoner Leonard Peltier. Bix was 77; he walked at about my speed, at 43, and so we marched together and struck up a conversation about our common hometown of Tacoma. I confessed to Bix that I found it hard to come back to Tacoma; the poverty and disenfranchisement inevitable in a city that depended on industry and militarism for its commerce wore on and fragmented me. I was fascinated by Fr. Bill, who stayed in Tacoma and took on the hard work of challenging the oppressive conditions that thrived in Tacoma, while at the same time working to build a community that truly sustains life.

Bix did leave Tacoma early on to study, to teach, and to hitchhike around the country for a short while, but he came back, as he explained to me, in need of community. Coming to St. Leo's church in 1969, he worked with the homeless in Tacoma. Bix talks about the values of the Catholic Workers in an oral history for the NW Radical History Project, "The poor are our teachers, we learn from them... (we work) to stand against [those] types of violence that do so much damage to the lives of the poor, who are most vulnerable, whether it be through racism, militarism, or through exclusion."

From an on-line bio about Bix:

"(Father Bix), following the tradition established by Peter Maurin and Dorothy Day, the Tacoma Catholic Workers (TCW), invite the homeless to live with them and share their brokenness and hope." Later, when coming to Guadalupe House in 1979, his work focused on meeting the needs of people with mental illness. 'I fit very well there,' he said. Eventually, Bix worked with others to create a Catholic Worker Community at Guadalupe House. (Today, the Tacoma Catholic Worker houses comprise most of a city block). In this setting, personal relationships and friendship are more important than achievement."

Through the years Bix has worked on fair housing and anti-discrimination work; he was active in the Vietnam war resistance, got involved with Central American Solidarity work, and protests at the School of Americas.

When it was learned that the US was focused on developing first strike nuclear warheads, and Bangor Nuclear Base began its buildup of the Trident Nuclear Submarine Base, Bix focused more and more on the nuclear disarmament movement. He's visited the base many times, in small boats, or through cut fencing. He's also placed himself on the rail lines during the white train actions, a campaign that organized activists from Texas to Washington to directly resist nuclear weapons material transport to the base.

Fr. Bill Bichsel's action statement titled *Lethal Force*, read in part, "On November 2, 2009, All Souls Day, by the grace of God I choose to enter the Trident Submarine Base at Bangor, Washington. I wish to walk to the idolatrous place of nuclear weapon bunkers where lethal force is authorized to guard the hiding places of the most lethal forces in the world. I wish to walk in solidarity with the poor of our world who live with lethal force constantly directed against them... The continued possession of nuclear weapons by the United States means that resources that could be used to divert the lethal forces that are now killing the poor of our world will continue to be used to fuel the killing machine."

The Disarm Now Plowshares 5

In the world of activism, resisting nuclear warheads is an immense job. Because the warheads are stored on military installations, getting close to the nukes requires that one go into military installations, so civil resistance often brings felony charges. There's the choice to stay at safe distances from the stockpiles; however, the tactics used in Plowshares actions takes a more direct approach, though the actions are also very symbolic: the Plowshares activists actually take a step to begin the dismantling process.

> *"On November 2, 2009, All Souls Day, by the grace of God I choose to enter the Trident Submarine Base at Bangor, Washington. I wish to walk to the idolatrous place of nuclear weapon bunkers where lethal force is authorized to guard the hiding places of the most lethal forces in the world. I wish to walk in solidarity with the poor of our world who live with lethal force constantly directed against them."* - ***Father Bix***

Cutting and climbing through high-tension barbed wire fencing blocking their way, and carrying hammers to symbolically begin a dismantling process, the Plowshares activists poured their own blood on that ground. Four hours after entering the nuclear base, after cutting through the final fence, facing the nuclear bunkers head on, they saw the Marines that work security around the Strategic Weapons Facility-Pacific (SWFPac) at Bangor, awaiting them. At that point they kneeled, prayed, and Father Bix performed an exorcism of that land (one of the very cool aspects of being a Priest).

After the exorcism, Marines arrived, holding the five at gunpoint on the ground for hours; they were bound and hooded so they could not see, and their eyes could not be seen by those holding them at gunpoint. The Plowshares activists were not allowed speech or movement, and they were eventually carried back through the openings in the fence they had cut. The Marines delivered the activists to NCIS (Naval Criminal Investigative Service) and FBI interrogators.

> *The fact that the nuclear weapons exist and are stockpiled with the intent to use them to destroy life is what is criminal, not that these five individuals walked by the place where the illegal weapons are stockpiled.*

From Hiroshima to Bangor

Before taking part in this Plowshares action, Bix traveled to Hiroshima and Nagasaki with a northwest interfaith peace contingent in a "Journey of Repentance" on the 64th anniversary of the bombings. They visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and met with the Hibakusha. The memories and experiences of the Hibakusha, those who witnessed the horror of the US nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, are essential to hear; their memories allow us not to forget. I found testimonials recorded by the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum online; included here, testimony of Akiko Takakur, who at age 20 was at the Bank of Hiroshima, one of the few survivors who was within 300 meters of the hypocenter:

> *"What I felt at that moment was that Hiroshima was entirely covered with only three colors. I remember red, black and brown, but... nothing else. Many people on the street were killed almost instantly. The fingertips of those dead bodies caught fire and the fire gradually spread over their entire bodies from their fingers. A light gray liquid dripped down their hands, scorching their fingers. I was so shocked to know that fingers and bodies could be burned and deformed like that. I just couldn't believe it. It was horrible. And looking at it, it was more than painful for me to think how the fingers were burned, hands and fingers that would hold babies or turn pages, they just, they just burned away."*

It takes a leap to believe in our common humanity, in peace itself. The faith inspired Plowshares activists acted to expose that which most are afraid to see, to even acknowledge the existence of the enormous horror of what these weapons have done and will do again, if not for their eventual abolition. Humans, who produced this stockpile of nuclear weapons, are faced with the tasks of structural dismantling of not only the weapons themselves, but the mindset that considers them necessary. This seems more difficult an equation than that which gave way to their production at the outset. No one knows the answer, certainly. We can only eliminate what we know not to be answers, and do something else. The Plowshares activists took one step towards that enormous endeavor, acting on their own authority to serve as citizen nuclear weapons inspectors, acting to inspire imagination and hope by symbolically beginning the dismantling process.

As Susan Crane writes in a March 3 DNP article, "We need to imagine a new way that does not involve constant preparation for the end of life as we know it. We need to choose life, not death.

"For thirty years, people in the Plowshares movement have dedicated themselves to risking their freedom to bring to light the deep, dark, and violent secrets that our government would rather people not see – the nuclear warheads in their bunkers, the ICBM's in their underground silos, and the Tridents silently lurking deep in the oceans – so that they may continue business as usual (and it is *big* business). But we can no longer afford (nor could we ever really afford) business as usual."

Misdemeanor to Grand Jury Indictment

Though initially charged with misdemeanors and barred from the base following the Nov. 2, 2009 action, the feds stepped in, ordering the lower court to move aside. Nothing happened for 10 months, then came a federal grand jury indictment in early September 2010. (It's been said 'a prosecutor could get a grand jury to indict a ham sandwich'; only the prosecutor presents evidence

▸ **CONTINUED** on next page

How can I help the DNP 5?

• Take part in the Festival of Hope on December 6th in Tacoma and attend the trial on December 7th

• Learn more about the nuclear disarmament and the DNP 5 by visiting: http://disarmnowplowshares.wordpress.com

• Help with outreach and event planning by contacting Sue Ablao at sablao1@yahoo.com, or here in Olympia contact pattyimani@hotmail.com).

• Invite Plowshares activists to speak at your school, church or public event. Show the film "Free World", a documentary on Tacoma nuclear disarmament activists' visit to Hiroshima. If you are a musician/poet and would like to perform at a fundraising event in Olympia, contact pattyimani@hotmail.com

• Attend one of the weekly support meetings, Tuesdays 6:30 pm at "Jean's House", 1417 S. G St, Tacoma

• Donate to the legal defense fund, Donations endorsed to: Sue Ablao (memo: Plowshares) and mail to: 16159 Clear Creek Rd NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370

• See/listen to the interview with Susan Crane and Lynne Greewald on YT at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6bfQk9vK7Wk

• Bix's Oral History with the NW Radical History Project can be viewed at: http://depts.washington.edu/antiwar/interview_bichsel.shtml

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▸ **CONTINUED** from previous page

to show cause, there is no voice for the defense during the indictment process.) Though acting to protect life and prevent destruction, a statement from the public affairs office from the US Attorney's Office offers this spin announcing the indictment, "All citizens are free to disagree with their government, but they are not free to destroy property or risk the safety of others... These defendants entered a naval installation during a time of war, cutting through three fences into a clearly marked prohibited zone... These defendants quite literally crossed the line and must be held accountable." (Though symbolic, if the action wasn't considered a potential threat – not to anyone's safety – it was considered dangerous in dissolving the ideological hold that keeps the people hooded in the dark to the threat that is Bangor. Otherwise, I doubt the Justice Department would have called Big Brother in to write and release this mind dribble.)

The Disarm Now Plowshares 5 have crossed that wonderful line, exposing the nuclear arsenal. They intend to hold the US accountable, putting not themselves on trial, but the US for its illegal stockpile of nuclear weapons. They do this within the context of defending themselves against four counts including Trespass, 18 USC Sec. 1361; Conspiracy, 18 USC Sec 371; Destruction of Property at a Naval Installation, 18 USC Sec. 1363; and Destruction of Government Property,18 USC Sec. 1361.

The trial is scheduled for Dec. 7, before Judge Benjamin Settle, at the Federal Courthouse located at the old Union Station, 1713 Pacific Avenue in downtown Tacoma. Supporters are encouraged to attend and hold vigil during the trial. The five are representing themselves. Bill Quigley, Legal Director for the Center for Constitutional Rights, has agreed to provide legal advice and testimony; the court also assigned standby council for each defendant. The five co-defendants have stated they will not ask to postpone early trial date. They're ready, their defense is affirmative - the stockpile of nuclear weapons is illegal. The fact that the nuclear weapons exist and are stockpiled with the intent to use them to destroy life is what is criminal, not that these five individuals walked by the place where the illegal weapons are stockpiled.

If not exonerated on these facts, each defendant potentially faces penalties of over twenty years in prison. Why have they taken such risks of losing their own freedom?

Possibly everyone living today is imprisoned against the threat of nuclear annihilation. Even those who believe they are 'protected' by the stockpile can't escape that imprisonment. Possibly, a faith that requires the action of many working together to bring change "hammering swords into plowshares" brings hope for escape. I do know that Bix, Anne, Lynne, Susan and Steve should not be imprisoned when they have acted only to set us free.

Patty Imani is a long-time anti-war and social justice activist, and organizer for Port Militarization Resistance.

▸ **CARBON,** continued from page 7

dards being followed. This is no different than many other products that are sold. Manufacture of bourbon has to follow certain steps to have the product sold as bourbon, lead-free paint can't contain lead, etc.

There are multiple standards at this point in the voluntary market. Most, but not all, include the concept of additionality.

Mike: I am concerned about your description of forests as a bridging strategy to deal with climate change. As I understand your testimony and answers here, there is a a saturation point at which forests find a natural balance between carbon being stored and carbon being released. So, even if we maximize the storage characteristics of existing forest and convert agricultural land into forest, these steps are not going to allow us to continue increasing carbon dioxide outputs. In the context of the biomass plants that are currently proposed for the Olympic Peninsula, we are looking at an estimated 2.75 million tons of carbon dioxide out of the proposed smokestacks per year.

1. This new commercial burning of the biomass is going to release this carbon into the atmosphere much more rapidly than allowing slash material to remain on the ground, even if you do broadcast burning on the ground to minimize forest fire fuel, won't it?

2. Part of this increased carbon release has to do with the much more complete burning of the material that will occur in a biomass plant when compared to the scorching of large wood debris and removal of flashy material that is going to occur with a broadcast burn on the ground, does that analysis seem accurate to you?

3. And if it does, doesn't this mean that we have to be looking at converting a lot of ground from agricultural use to forest rotation in order to reach some kind of carbon neutrality for the carbon dioxide output of these new smokestacks?

4. I guess that is part of the concept you call "additionality." Can you help us understand this?

Mark: The fact that forest systems reach a saturation point means that they can store carbon permanently, but the amount stored can't go up forever. Not unless the system starts to put more in via the process of photosynthesis or by reducing the leaks in the system. The latter can be changed to some degree, but some leaks are completely necessary to maintain the input of carbon. From the perspective of carbon, decomposition is a leak, but from the standpoint of nutrients such as nitrogen, it is the leak that allows the nutrient recycling which maintains forest productivity.

Burning slash on the site or in biomass energy plants is going to immediately release the carbon potentially stored into the atmosphere. Because there is some energy recovery that can be used to offset fossil fuels, the use of biofuels is likely to result in less net carbon to the atmosphere than just burning the slash on site. Depending on the decomposition rate of the slash and the energy recovery from the biofuels, leaving the slash to decompose on site is likely to store as much or less carbon than the biofuels system. For the forest system you are talking about probably slightly more, but it really depends on some pretty specific numbers that I don't have regarding those projects.

Yes, the biofuels system should have more complete combustion than one in which material is burned on site. The loss of carbon when burning onsite really depends on whether there is a broadcast burn versus burning in slash piles. The former can release the carbon in the forest floor, material that is hard to harvest for biofuels. The latter can minimize that loss, but clearly the forest floor under the piles will burn.

We need to get on with weaning ourselves from carbon-based energy as quickly as possible.

To both increase the stores of carbon and to allow bioenergy gains without a significant carbon debt will likely require planting forests on agricultural lands. These would have to be marginal agricultural lands, otherwise forests are likely to be cleared somewhere else to provide agricultural products; it's another form of leakage. Using existing young forest plantations to produce bioenergy would certainly create a lower carbon debt than harvesting older forests, but it's fairly hard to see how no carbon debt would be created in establishing this system. It really needs to be demonstrated and not assumed as so often the case.

Mike: I think many folks have trouble understanding the scale and impact of the different issues that arise when thinking about forests and carbon storage. As I read your testimony, I get a sense that the actual impact of natural forest fires, lightning strikes, things of that nature is much smaller than we might think. I wonder if we get acculturated to not notice a smokestack emitting tons of carbon dioxide when our attention to the flame, soot, and smoke of even a small forest fire will stop traffic and end up on the evening news. How do these events compare in terms of carbon dioxide generation? Should we be more concerned about the construction of new smokestacks and less concerned with the spectacle of a natural forest fire?

Mark: Well yes, people assume that when there is a forest fire that all the carbon is burned up. That's certainly how it's portrayed in the press. In fact, we usually read about acres being destroyed, which isn't actually possible. Most of a forest's carbon is not consumed by fires. In fact less than 25% is consumed and that number would be for some of the most intense fires ever observed. It doesn't seem possible to most people. But consider several facts: 30 to 50% of the carbon in a forest is stored belowground, and these forms of carbon generally do not burn up regardless of fire severity. Severe fires kill trees, but they don't burn them up. If that was true then why are people arguing about timber salvage? If all the trees burned up then there would be nothing to salvage so why argue about it? This seems a bit inconsistent to me.

I think the main concern is to reduce fossil fuel carbon releases, although if climate continues to change there will be additional carbon releases from wildfires that will counter to some degree our attempts to reduce fossil fuel emissions.

Mike: I read your testimony and your greatest concern is the same as mine. It seems we both have real concerns that global warming could pass tipping points that would destabilize precipitation patterns and change forests from a bridging strategy for controlling atmospheric carbon dioxide to fuel for large and widespread forest fire activity (not the natural, generally small lightning strike type of fires) but something on the scale of the Yacolt burn that would pour large amounts of carbon dioxide into the environment. This is so hard to imagine that we need to rent a disaster movie to get a grasp of it. It seems to me that we should be acting very aggressively to reduce that nightmare scenario. Can you reconcile the addition of any new smokestacks with our need to reduce carbon output?

Mark: Like it or not, we need energy. We will need it for a number of reasons, including creating an energy infrastructure that is less carbon dependent. However, we need to get on with weaning ourselves from carbon-based energy as quickly as possible. In doing this we need to be aware when we are creating carbon debts (some are hard to avoid) so that we can minimize their size and to figure out the fastest way to pay these debts back. I think part of the problem with many biofuels projects is that by assuming there is absolutely no carbon debt incurred that the discussion of minimizing effects and the time to pay for them is being completely overlooked.

Mike: Well, thank you, Dr. Harmon for the conversation and for your work on forests and global climate. I am going to let you have the last word. Tell us what you think we need to hear from you with regard to forests and climate change. What can an individual do to be part of the solution to this crisis?

Mark: I think I've covered a lot of that in your other questions. The first thing one can do is become informed. The next thing is to help establish credible, scientifically based standards and guidelines for greenhouse gases. I realize that not everyone is going to be writing their own guidelines. But they can certainly hold their political representatives accountable for progress on this front. And as silly as it sounds, try to minimize your own carbon footprint and let others know how you are doing it.

Want to read more?

Potential Upper Bounds of Carbon Stores in Forests of the Pacific Northwest

PDF - http://tinyurl.com/390phf8

Managing forests to enhance carbon sequestration is one means of reducing CO2 concentrations in the atmosphere to mitigate potential threats from global climate change (Vitousek 1991, Brown 1996).

Biomass incinerators

There are five biomass incinerators proposed for the Olympic Peninsula alone, raising fears that regional forests will be clear-cut to feed them. The Adage incinerator proposed in Shelton will burn a ton of forest wood every 53 seconds. Still, another biomass incinerator is proposed in Shelton by Simpson. In addition, there are proposals for incinerators at Evergreen State College, in Port Townsend, and in Port Angeles.

The release of millions of tons per year of CO2 from just one biomass incinerator is a direct assault on the planet's biosphere. With many incinerators planned for Washington state alone, this giant release of CO2 will contribute to the global warming crisis and accelerate it.

While accelerating global warming, biomass incineration will also greatly increase amounts of 2.5×m, or smaller, particulate matter (PM2.5), dioxins, and other toxins; research has shown that incineration will shorten lifespans by increasing respiratory diseases, heart diseases, and all manner of pathogens.

The environmental impact of biomass incineration is in direct opposition to these worthy goals. Activists are demanding that a moratorium be placed on biomass incinerator permits to allow time for new medical research results, and the claims of carbon neutrality to be examined in open, public hearings, and scientific debate.

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WIP Announcements

Send in announcements to submissions@olywip.org or Works In Progress PO Box 295 Olympia WA 98507

Drunken Poetry
Last Word Books
211 East 4th Olympia
1st Monday of the Month 7:30-9:30pm

Readings on a first-come first-serve sign-up basis. Time is limited so three poems of moderate length or one long poem and one short from each reader.

Tuesday Read-Ins
Tuesdays, 5-7pm
Last Word Books
211 East 4th Olympia

Come on in, sit, read and drink free tea!

Peace Vigil
NW corner of Sylvester Park
Every Wednesday from 12 noon to 1 pm.

Please come for all or part of the hour to witness in a very friendly way for peace and nonviolence. We provide plenty of signs. The Olympia Fellowship Of Reconcilliation has sponsored this since March 5, 1980.

Info: 491-9093 glen@olympiafor.org

The Other Bank
Wednesdays, Ongoing, 1:00 - 3:30pm
YWCA, 220 Union Ave SE, Olympia
information: 360-352-0593

The YWCA Other Bank provides items to families in need that cannot be purchased with food stamps and are not available at food banks, yet are essential for maintaining health and personal dignity. Items include: toilet paper, laundry and dish detergent, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, soap, tampons and pads, cleaning products, etc. Donations can be dropped off Mon-Fri, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Stonewall Youth Support Groups
Wednesdays
4:30-6:30pm for 21 and under group, & 7-9pm for 18+ group.

Stonewall Youth is an organization of youth, activists, and allies that empowers lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQQIA) youth to speak for themselves, educate their communities, and support each other. Stonewall Youth envisions a community in which all queer, gender variant, and gender non-conforming youth have a full spectrum of choices regarding their bodies, self-expression, and legal rights. 360-705-2738 www.stonewallyouth.org info@stonewallyouth.org

Veterans for Peace airs a local program
Every Wednesday at 5 pm
Every Friday from 9 - 10 pm
Thurston County TV (TCTV)
Info: Dennis Mills 867-1487 mills.dennis@comcast.net

"Parallel University"
89.3 FM or kaos.evergreen.edu/
Every Thursday from 12 - 1 pm

Features interesting, informative programs about peace, social justice, the environment, progressive politics, and other alternative viewpoints. parralleluniversity@yahoo.com

Percival Landing Peace Vigil
Fridays, 4:30-6pm
4th Avenue and Water Street, Olympia

All welcome to witness in a very friendly way for peace and nonviolence. We provide plenty of signs. The Olympia Fellowship Of Reconciliation has sponsored this since 1998. 491-9093 glen@olympiafor.org

Yolanda Cruz, award-winning filmmaker
November 2nd – Tuesday, 7pm
The Evergreen State College
Lecture Hall 1

Yolanda Cruz, an award-winning Chatino filmmaker from Oaxaca, Mexico, will present her most recent film and engage in discussion on documentary filmmaking and her experiences filming in indigenous Oaxacan villages, where migration to the U.S. has significantly changed the reality of life on both sides of the border.

Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, anti-Arab Racism, and the Palestine-Israel Conflict:a Panel Discussion
November 3rd – Wednesday, 7pm
First Christian Church
701 Franklin St SE, Olympia

Featured speakers: Martin Friedman is an anti-racist trainer and organizer with the People's Institute Northwest and is the Social Justice Initiatives Associate Director at the Seattle YWCA. He has done extensive work on the intersection of Jewishness and racial identity. Therese Saliba is an Evergreen professor who specializes in international feminst studies, Middle East studies, and comparative and multicultural literature. Jeff Siddiqui is a spokesperson for American Muslims of Puget Sound and has worked with a variety of organizations in the Northwest to dispel common myths about Islam and Muslims. Sponsored by TESC Divest (www.tescdivest.org) and Olympia BDS (www.olympiabds.org)

Focus Group to Help Form an Advocacy Plan Around TANF.
November 4th – Friday, 5:30pm
Parents Organizing for Welfare & Economic Rights
701 Franklin Street SE, Olympia
360-352-9716 toll free 866-343-9716

Focus Group of people who are a survivors of domestic violence and a former or current Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients. We will feed you dinner, have on site childcare and provide a $20 cash stipend for your time and travel costs The Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV) has asked Parents Organizing For Welfare and Economic Rights (POWER) to convene a focus group to help them form their advocacy plan around TANF Reauthorization. Like POWER, WSCADV will be in Washington DC next year trying to get better options for survivors of domestic violence and your experiences and ideas are an important part of informing their work. Let us know if you can attend. welfarerights@riseup.net http://www.oly-wa.us/power/ Find us on Facebook and Myspace. POWER is an organization of low-income parents and allies advocating for a strong social safety net while working toward a world where children and care giving are truly valued, and the devastation of poverty has been eradicated.

Mark Harmon : Achieving Carbon Neutrality
November 4th – Thursday, 6pm
The Evergreen State College
Lecture Hall 1

Free and open to the public. Mark is a professor and chair of the Forest Science Department at Oregon State University (OSU). His research has been referenced to both credit and discredit the idea of achieving carbon neutrality by using waste wood of forest management for energy. I hope you will join us in this community presentation on forest carbon and carbon cycling. madroned@evergreen.edu Mark's OSU biography = http://www.cof.orst.edu/100faces/bios/mharmon.php

Dr. Gary F. Moore – How Nature can Inspire Solutions for Renewable Energy
November 5th – Friday, 12:30-1:30pm
The Evergreen State College
Computer Applications Lab, first floor of Lab II

Dr. Gary F. Moore is an Evergreen graduate and postdoctoral associate at the Yale Green Energy Consortium and Department of Chemistry. Abstract: Sunlight is the ultimate energy source for the vast majority of life on Earth and organisms have evolved elegant machinery for its capture and utilization. Solar energy also has the capacity to fulfill technological global human energy demands in an environmentally and socially responsible manner, provided cost-effective methods can be developed for its harvest, conversion, and storage. This presentation draws parallels between biological and technological energy systems. Aspects of biology that might be advantageously incorporated into emerging technologies are highlighted, as well as ways in which technology might improve upon the principles of energy conversion found in biological systems. Emphasis is placed upon the development of hybrid bio-inspired devices capable of capturing and storing photonic energy in the form of solar fuels. More information on the research of his lab can be found here: http://www.chem.yale.edu/~brudvig/lab_members.htm Dani Madrone, Student Sustainability Coordinator

Augusto Obregon - Migrating Towards Justice: Stories to Transform People and Policy
November 5th – Friday, 12:30pm
The Evergreen State College
Lecture Hall 1

Join us for a unique investigation into the root causes of migration and the impacts of free trade on Nicaragua. Augusto Cesar Castillo Obregon is a campesino farmer and peasant leader from El Regadio, Esteli, Nicaragua. He has been a community leader in El Regadio for over thirty years and coordinator of the water committee, a community run organization which distributes potable water to the entire community. Augusto works with the water committee to bring conservation projects to help protect El Regadio's forests and water sources. Augusto is also the vice-president of the Federation for the Integral Development between Farmers or Federacion Para Desarrollo Integral entre Campesinos y Campesinas (FEDICAMP), a non-profit organization which works with small-scale farmers on sustainability. Together with other outstanding speakers, Augusto Cesar Castilo Obregon, will also be speaking Friday night, November 5th at 6:30 P.M. at the Fair Trade Sweat-Free conference at Traditions Cafe on the "Free Trade, Forced Migration and Sweatshops Panel"http://blogs.evergreen.edu/bohmerp

SWEATSHOPS, GOVERNMENT PURCHASING, AND WASHINGTON STATE
Briefing on City and State efforts to end sweatshops in the apparel industry
November 5th – Friday, 3:00-4:30pm
Capitol Campus, Cherberg Building
Senate Hearing Room #3
304 15th Ave, Olympia, WA 98502

Government purchasing can have a positive impact on ending sweatshop labor in the US and globally, and on building a stronger economy through ensuring living wage jobs. Learn about the City of Seattle's newly adopted Sweat-Free Procurement Policy and how Washington State can join cities and states across the country in the SweatFree Purchasing Consortium. Panel: Rep. Steve Conway, WA State Legislature (29th District), Chair of Commerce and Labor Committee; Nancy Locke, City Purchasing Director for the City of Seattle; Bjorn Claeson, Director, SweatFree Communities and Interim Coordinator of SweatFree Purchasing Consortium; Rebecca Johnson, Government Affairs Director, Washington State Labor Council. RSVP requested but not required to: Kristen kristen@washingtonfairtrade.org 206.437.5599

Western Washington Fellowship Of Reconciliation Fall Retreat:
Cut the Military Budget! Fund Domestic Needs! Organize! Develop Your Skills!
November 5th - Friday 5:30pm
Gwinwood Conference Center. 6015 30th Ave SE, Lacey

While military spending keeps escalating, individual Americans are losing their jobs and homes, and state and local governments are cutting needed services. In Washington State 40,000 people have lost basic health coverage, funds to reduce school class size have been slashed 70%, college tuition has risen, and library hours are being cut. Meanwhile, taxpayers from our state have spent $23.8 billion for the wars. Focused on the Bring the $Billion$ Home campaign. Learn how best this campaign can be implemented in your community. You will have the opportunity to learn how to design and implement surveys, find the research you will need to support this campaign, take part in guerrilla theater, use social media like Twitter and Facebook, and much more

FREE TRADE, FORCED MIGRATION & SWEATSHOPS: Cross-border organizing in the post-election season
November 5th – Friday 6:30pm
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819
Featuring Augusto Obregon (also speaking at12:30pm at The Evergreen State College

Lecture Hall 1) and Carmen Duran with Kristen Beifus of the Washington Fair Trade Coalition, Colette Cosner of Witness for Peace, and Bjorn Claeson of SweatFree Communities.

Mental Health First Aid Training
10 hr Certification Class for Mental Health First Aid
November 6th – 7th , Saturday-Sunday, 10am- 3pm, Lunch Provided
Capital Clubhouse 618 7th Avenue, Olympia

Mental Health First Aid training is a blueprint for providing comfort, promoting recovery, and helping to reduce distress related to stressful situations, trauma and crisis. This is First Aid for the mind and can help with an understanding for first responders, family members and even people who live with mental illnesses. Learn about: Impact of mental disorders, suicide prevention, schizophrenia, bi-polar disorder, depression, anxiety disorders, psychosis, substance abuse disorders and recovery from crisis involving these issues. Please RSVP to Stephanie Lane 360-464-3880 25 spots

WHERE AM I WEARING?
November 6th – Saturday, 2:00pm
First Christian Church, 701 Franklin St. SE

Hear from Author KELSEY TIMMERMAN who set off across the globe to meet the people who made his t-shirt, underwear, and other clothes. His book chronicling his first-hand meetings with garment workers has received rave reviews. Hear him share stories from the road that you can bring back to educate your community.

VOICES FROM THE GRASSROOTS: Worker organizing, corporate campaigning, and sweatfree policy
November 6th – Saturday, 4:00pm
First Christian Church, 701 Franklin St. SE

REYNALDO CORPORAN DONASTORG was a union organizer and worker at BJ&B Garment Factory in the Dominican Republic, where he made baseball caps for Nike and Adidas. The 2003 BJ&B union contract victory was the result of a major international solidarity campaign that gave hope to the possibility of bringing justice to free trade zone workers. Reynaldo is researching working conditions and organizing possibilities at major government contractor factories in the Dominican Republic. VICTOR VELEZ, an attorney and organizer with the union Workers United, is leading a lawsuit against Propper International claiming that the company has failed to pay legally owed sick days. He is also organizing a coordinated campaign for union recognition at all of the company's factories in Puerto Rico. Propper is one of the largest apparel contractors of the U.S. Government and a major military supplier. The State of Washington and the City of Seattle also buy public employee uniforms made by Propper.

POST "Pictures Of Something True" ART SHOW
November 6th , Saturday – 5pm
112 State street, Olympia

Work by local quality artists.

Camp Quixote Presents – Silent Movie THE GENERAL!
November 6th, Saturday – 6:30pm
Capitol Theater, 206 5th Avenue SE, Olympia
360.754.6670

Starring Buster Keaton with live piano music by Dave Milne Donations are being accepted at the box office day of show. "The General" is set during the US Civil War. Johnny Gray (Keaton), a locomotive engineer, ends up in hilarious and hair-raising chases and escapes that will make your whole family laugh and cheer! Proceeds from this event benefit Camp Quixote. You can also donate in advance to: Panza, P. O. Box 2274, Olympia, WA, 98507.

"Here's to the Women" presented by Linda Allen with Rebel Voices
November 7th – Sunday, 7pm
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

At the celebration of 100 years of women's suffrage, these performers who have for so long lent their voices to the causes of rights, social justice, and peace will share the songs, stories, and images of Washington's women. Those stories include both the silencing and the raising up of women's voices. You can read more about these performers on the detail page.: $12 Student/low income: $8

From Parlor to Podium: Territorial Suffragists of Olympia Exhibit
November 8th – Monday
State Capitol Museum,
211 21st Ave SW, Olympia,
360-753-2580

Focusing on the territorial suffrage campaigns centered in Olympia, and the women and men who worked to secure the vote for Washington women in the territorial period, the exhibit highlights how the suffrage movement went from homes to the public sphere as suffrage supporters organized for women's rights. Olympia was central to the suffrage movement and played host to noted suffrage leaders Susan B. Anthony, Abigail Scott Duniway, Henry Blackwell and others. Exhibit features period images, clothing, artifacts and furnishings. "From Parlor to Podium" runs until June of 2011. Special curriculum opportunities are

available through the State Capital Museum in Olympia. Organized by the Washington State Historical Society and the Women's History Consortium.

The Day of Jubilation Celebration That Women Have Voted Here for 100 Years
November 8th – Monday, 10am – 5pm
State Capitol Museum
211 21st Ave SW, Olympia,
360-753-2580

Enjoy a full day of events and activities in honor of the 1910 passage of women's suffrage in Washington State, a decade before the national level.Linda Allen will lead a sing-a-long in the Rotunda at about noon. Info: www.washingtonwomenshistory.org/ 360-586-0171 or e-mail:sstevenson@wshs.wa.gov

Olympia Climate Action Monthly Meeting
November 8th - Monday – 7-9pm
2nd Monday of each Month
MIXX 96 Meeting Room
State & Washington, Olympia

Olympia Climate Action is a group of local citizens who got together initially to plan and have Step It Up Day on April 14, 2007, which took place in Sylvester Park and Olympia Timberland Regional Library. After the event, the group decided to stay together and continue working on climate change in South Sound. The primary focus is on activities by Olympia Climate Action and related groups and on local and state climate-related actions, not the debates over climate change science or national and international events. Information: Barb 878-9901

Wed Nov 10: Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP) Monthly Meeting
November 10th – Wednesday, 7pm
2nd & 4th Wednesdays

Work on a variety of global and local issues. Info: Larry 866-2404 lmosque-da@comcast.net

Reilly & Maloney
November 11th – Thursday, 8pm
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

Now that David and Ginny have started touring again, their fans from their early days have returned, but they are now building a new legion of fans. Their songs, with nuanced personal perspective, become favorites; their harmonies are winning; their ease with the audience makes for good entertainment. $15 Student/low income: $10

John Cronan and Casey Asprooth-Jackson -- Fighting for a Free Society: Analysis, Vision and Strategy
November 12th – Friday, 3pm
The Evergreen State College
Seminar 2, A1105

John Cronan Jr. is a restaurant worker of 11 years, organizer, and writer. He is a native of Providence, RI, but has lived in New York City for many years--where he has been involved in labor, student, and environmental organizing. Currently, John is an organizer for the Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York (ROC-NY), a membership based workers' center dedicated to building worker power and changing conditions in the restaurant industry, as well as overall social transformation; and is a founding member of the new political grouping. Casey Asprooth-Jackson is an undergraduate student at Bard College, where he studies Film Production and Human Rights. He is an activist and student organizer at Bard, involved in campaigns surrounding labor injustice on campus and the Israel/Palestine conflict. They will also leading discussions in in Olympia Friday night, November 12th and/or Saturday, November 13th. For more information about their speaking locations contact Peter Bohmer, peterbohmer@yahoo.com or 867-6431 my web-page: http://blogs.evergreen.edu/bohmerp

Gerri Haynes -- Gaza's Current Realities and Future
November 12th – Friday, 6:30pm
Olympia Center
Room A - 222 Columbia Street NW

Gerri Haynes is a compassionate peace activist and nurse who is active in Physicians for Social Responsibility. She is excellent at spending time in troubled areas and gaining first-hand insights into the realities (regarding health and other human concerns) – and then returning to the US to tell people about them. Her positive reputation was well known even before I met her when she was a guest on the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation's TV program a number of years ago, reporting on medical problems the U.S. had caused in Iraq through the economic sanctions since 1990

Olympia Film Society Presents 27th Annual Olympia Film Festival:
November 12 - November 20, 2010
Capitol Theater, 206 5th Avenue SE,
360.754.6670

Please visit the official Olympia Film Festival 27 website at www.olympiafilmfestival.org to see previews and schedules. *"Stonewall Uprising" - Benefit for Stonewall Youth is tentatively scheduled for November 17th.

The Heartsparkle Players
November 12th - Friday, 7:30pm
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

"Stories of Body, Mind and Spirit" in collaboration with Journey Home, a non-profit organization formed to provide a nurturing environment and community for those nearing end of life. *This performance will also be a part of a Sixth Annual Global Playback Theatre event where Playback Companies all over the world will explore this theme. Donation $5 - $10 (no one turned away)

Smart Solutions for a Sustainable Northwest
November 13th – Saturday, 11:45am – 3:00pm (lunch & presentation)
Olympia Golf & Country Club
3636 Country Club Dr. NW, Olympia

The League of Women Voters of Thurston County works hard to educate the local community about major public policy issues and to activate people to improve their governments. Roger Valdez from the Sightline Institute will speak about Smart Solutions for a Sustainable Northwest. For reservation information call Dawn at 455-4190. More information is at www.lwvthurston.org

FILM: "World Vote Now"
November 13th – Saturday, 1pm. (tentative)
Capitol Theater, 206 5th Avenue SE
360.754.6670

This film was shot in 26 countries, in every region of the planet, to explore whether we could extend universal voting rights to everybody. Could we really build a global democratic system? Part of the Olympia Film Society's Film Festival. Verify the final schedule at www.olyfilm.org

The Righteous Mothers
November 13th - Saturday, 8pm
November 14th – Sunday, 7pm
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

This year this popular Olympia-Seattle quartet will do two shows to accommodate the great number of fans. "The Mothers open hearts with their zany physical comedy. The harmonies throughout are taut with an easy feel and the ideology slips unencumbered into consciousness, buoyed as it is by hummable melodies, gentle tone, and caressing vision." - Laura Post, Sing Out! Magazine. $15 Student/$10 Low Income

Open House Invitation to the Community
November 16th – Tuesday, 6-8pm.
Community Resource Center
4th floor, 317 4th Ave, Olympia,

Partners in Prevention Education, Stonewall Youth and the United Communities AIDS Network will host an Open House & invite the community to come visit our collaborative Community Resource Center. Learn more about available services. Meet members of our Staff, Board, and Volunteers. Brief presentations from each of the partner organizations will begin at 7:00 pm in the Co-Lab conference room. Light refreshments will be available.. Please join us! For more information 360-357-4472.

Local Food Security
November 16th – Tuesday, 7pm
MIXX 96 Meeting room,
Corner of State and Washington

Local food security is an issue of growing concern. Not only changing weather patterns, but predictions of rising costs and dwindling supplies of fossil fuels will take a toll on our highly energy-dependent food distribution and agricultural systems. It's time for us to start thinking about food resilience.

T.J. Johnson, director of the Urban Ag Program of Sustainable South Sound, recently attended a national conference on Community Food Security in New Orleans. He will begin the local dialogue on this issue with a report from that conference.

This event, sponsored by Olympia Climate Action-Transition, is free and open to the public. Please bring your own mug to enjoy a cup of coffee or tea along with other refreshments. For more info contact joanne@naturalcoach.com or www.transitonolympia.com

FILM: "Stonewall Uprising" - Benefit for Stonewall Youth
November 17th – Wednesday, 8pm
Capitol Theater, 206 5th Avenue SE
360.754.6670

This documentary explores the 1969 Stonewall riots, which served as a sharp turning point for gay rights in the United States.

Common Bread Presents Jerry Roback – Compassionate Trickster of Love
November 18th – Thursday, 6pm, with potluck desserts & tea
The Evergreen State College, Longhouse

Jerry empowers us with a new paradigm of community service based in personal relationship. Pioneer Vista Volunteer of the 60's on 2 Native American Reservations; community activist aiding war victims in Vietnam; conflict resolution counselor to Milwaukee's African American youth during the race riots of 1967; mental health counselor for Washington State; Currently runs a unique Food & Friendship Outreach to families on the margins of homelessness. Get inspired to re-seed the heart of hope in our world with a new model for local community action at a time when we can't depend on government funding! Fred LaMotte 253 720-5025 http://Cbread.blogspot.com/

Correo Aéreo with Amy Denio
November 19th – Friday, 8pm
November 20th – Saturday, 8pm
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

The musical combination of the award winning latin american duo, Correo Aereo, (Air Mail), Abel Rocha & Madeleine Sosin , (Traditions favorites) - on Venezuelan & Mexican harp, violin, cuatro, guitar, bombo, & maracas; a stunning array of string and percussive instruments plus silken vocal harmonies described as "...locked in carnal embrace." by the Austin Chronicle, together in their new trio with Amy Denio, (back from world tours with Kulture Shock & The Tiptons) - on accordion, clarinet & vocals in 4 octaves, has been described as: "A rarely yodeling, always scintillating, Latin American Afro Sephardic Eastern European Gypsy circus chamber music band" Their music has sabor and is richly polyrhythmic and soulfully melodic - gorgeous, fiery, haunting and joyful...this is the universal language, world music at it's finest. Perfect for all audiences and ages! Don't miss it! $12 Student/$8 Low Income.

Volunteers Needed to Sort and Box Medical Supplies for Other Countries
November 20th – Saturday, 9am to 1pm
Providence Health International / CHUMA,
2601 Willamette Drive NE, Suite G, Lacey

No experience is necessary. Volunteers must be aged 14 or above. CHUMA International (Catholic Health United for Medical Assistance) practices global solidarity and environmental stewardship by ensuring that useful medical supplies and equipment are shared with charitable health-care organizations in economically developing countries. CHUMA has sent medical supplies to are Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Haiti, Cuba, Brazil, Uganda, and other countries. Help CHUMA's volunteer efforts locally Ray Reyes 493-5641 raymond.reyes@providence.org

Childhood Cancer Benefit by Friends of Mia Presents... Built to Spill with The Hive Dwellers and Scarf
November 21st – Sunday, 6:30 pm doors / 7:30 pm show
All Ages
Capitol Theater, 206 5th Avenue SE
360.754.6670

NW indie band Built to Spill has been tantalizing fans for nearly 20 years, and continues to draw new audiences. Doug Martsch's witty lyrics and creative guitar style, combined with the solid backing of veteran band members, creates a cohesive homogenized sound that could potentially melt your mind. Add some local music from Calvin Johnson's band The Hive Dwellers, and the super sound of Scarf, and you've got your daily dose of music nutrients! Sponsored By: Northwest Snowboards, Olyphotos, Turning Leaf Productions $20.00 General Admission Tickets available at www.brownpapertickets.com and Rainy Day Records, Northwest Snowboards Olympia, and at the box office night of show.

Death penalty Abolition Committee of Olympia FOR Meeting
November 22nd – Monday, 7pm
Tumwater

To educate ourselves and work on further activities to abolish that atrocity. Info: Emily Hammargren 352-0695 deathpenal-ty@olympiafor.org

People for Puget Sound
November 22nd – Monday, 7pm
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

Learn about protecting our body of water, and meet other people who care about this.

Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP)
November 24th – Wednesday, 7:00 pm
2nd and 4th Wednesday

Work on a variety of global and local issues. (Verify tonight's meeting, the night before Thanksgiving.) Larry 866-2404 lmosqueda@comcast.net

Volunteers Needed to Sort and Box Medical Supplies for Other Countries
November 29th – Monday, 9am to 1pm
Providence Health International / CHUMA,
2601 Willamette Drive NE, Suite G, Lacey

No experience is necessary. Volunteers must be aged 14 or above. CHUMA International (Catholic Health United for Medical Assistance) practices global solidarity and environmental stewardship by ensuring that useful medical supplies and equipment are shared with charitable health-care organizations in economically developing countries. CHUMA has sent medical supplies to are Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Haiti, Cuba, Brazil, Uganda, and other countries. Help CHUMA's volunteer efforts locally Ray Reyes 493-5641 raymond.reyes@providence.org raymond.reyes@providence.org

2nd Annual Sunrise Ceremony Gathering Olympia Thanksgiving Morning
November 25th – Thursday, 7:00am
"Cheetwoot" (the black bear place)
5th and Water Street in front of Traditions

The sunrise ceremony has started as a commemoration of reconciliation process that has been happening in Olympia through dialogues and ceremony with Native and Non Native Peoples who have joined us. "I would suggest that Thanksgiving, go beyond the gratefulness of the harvest and should be dedicated as well to all our ancestors and give thanks for the things they have taught us."- Barry White Crow Higgins

Ramsey, Collins & Nicholsen
November 27th – Saturday, 8pm
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

Popular Northwest musicians Jef Ramsey on guitar, mandolin, and vocals; Barbara Collins on fiddle, mandolin, and vocals: and Mick Nicholsen on bass are a tight trio of swing tunes, originals, jazz, and some Bohemian music. They entertain with a variety of tunes and styles. $12 Student/low income: $8

Dana Lyons
December 3rd – Friday, 8pm
December 4th – Saturday, 8pm
Traditions Café, 5th & Water SW, Olympia
360-705-2819

We know that one night is just not enough time to cover the bases - songs for the earth, songs of our well-meaning but often funny and inconsistent behavior, pokes at our social mores, incisive political critique and so much of it we sing-along. So we have 2 full nights. See you there.

The organizers seek several volunteers to each host one or two participants and/or provide potluck meals and transportation. Please volunteer as soon as possible by contacting Dick Meyer at Traditions 705-2819 or Bob Zeigler at 570-0848.

The Sweatfree Summit will be open to the public. Topics include local and state purchase of sweatfree clothing and national legislation.

Organizing an event?

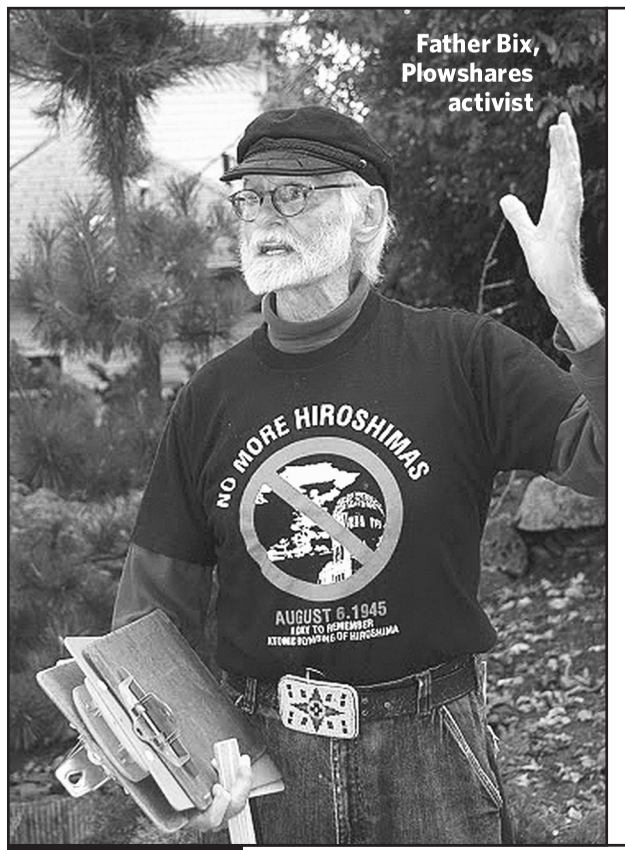
Email us at olywip@gmail.com with a title, date, time, place, and a brief description, and we'll get it in the next month's issue! But don't forget our deadline on Page 2.

November 2010

FREE

WORKS IN PROGRESS

SERVING THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY OF OLYMPIA SINCE 1990



The United States versus plowshares activists

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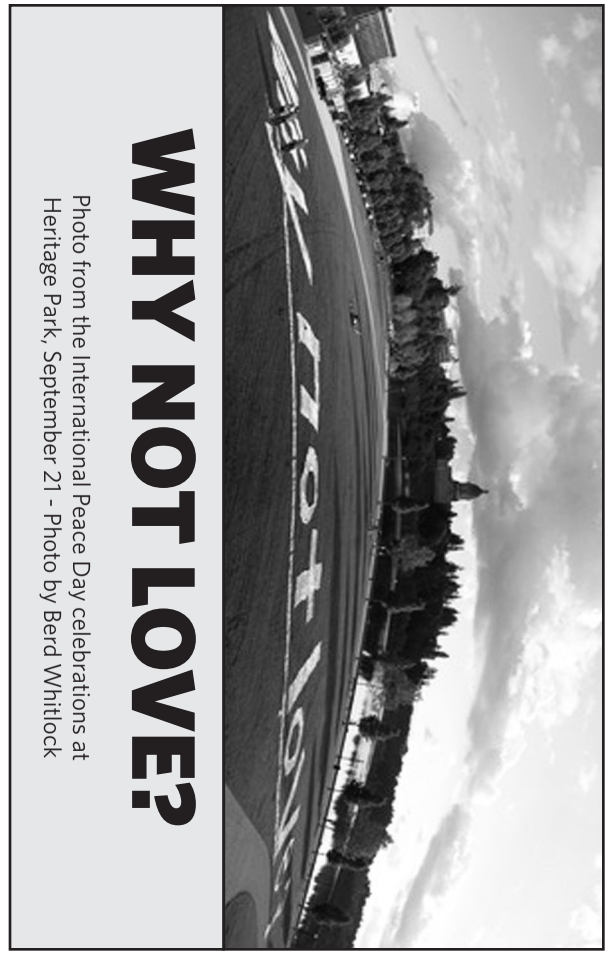

WHY NOT LOVE?

Photo from the International Peace Day celebrations at Heritage Park, September 21 - Photo by Berd Whitlock

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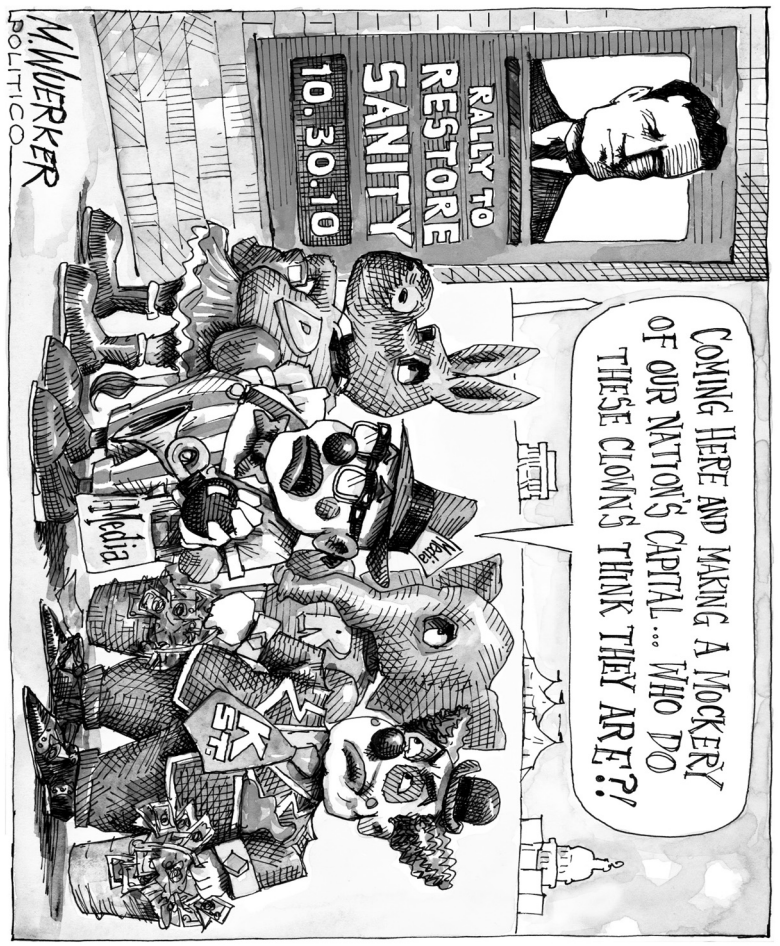

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Olympia WA 98507

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